

WALSALL CHRONICLE

Thursday, November 6, 2014

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Petition launches over free parking

A PETITION has been launched against plans to introduce parking charges in Bloxwich.

Concerns have been raised about the impact on businesses and shoppers if a new £1 for four hours parking fee is introduced.

More than 150 people have already signed the petition, which has been organised through Bloxwich resident and campaigner Matt Follows.

He said: "Shoppers and traders alike are put off by these charges imposed by the council, Sean Coughlan should listen to Bloxwich and understand that parking charges are not good for business."

"We need to keep it free in Bloxwich Town Centre."

He added Bloxwich Market traders have expressed concern that a parking charge will further drive business away from the town. The petition states: "Imposing these charges is an attack on Bloxwich and will stop people using Bloxwich shops and will badly affect businesses and jobs."

It comes as it emerged parking charges are poised to be introduced in district centres across Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall, under council plans.

● Fight – Page 2

Stallholders call for cheer

STALLHOLDERS are being called upon to bring some festive cheer to a Pelsall Christmas event. Park rangers are organising the event at High Heath Park on December 13 from 10am to 4pm. A wide range of stalls will be there.

John Millard, Walsall Council senior park ranger, said: "We really want to spread some festive cheer and get people in the mood for Christmas in Pelsall."

Anyone interested in having a stall is asked to call 07850 427366.

SHOP RAID PUTS PLANS IN DOUBT

Forklift truck destroyed in factory fire



Engineer Kevin Adams surveys the damage caused by the fire at Atlas Refurb and Repair, at The Green, Darlaston. A FIRE was sparked at a factory in Darlaston, destroying a forklift truck and causing heavy smoke damage.

The blaze at Atlas Refurb and Repair Ltd also caused a gas bottle to explode.

The cause of the fire on the shop floor of the factory on The Green is not known, but is not believed to be arson.

Managing director and owner Les Ricketts was alerted after an alarm to the business went off at around 3am on Saturday.

He arrived within 10 minutes and after opening up he could smell the smoke and when it became clear there was a blaze he called the fire service.

It caused fire damage to around five per cent of the factory, which specialises in the refurbishment and repair of electrical goods. But there was around 80 per cent smoke damage.

None of the stock was wrecked and it is hoped with the use of a generator the business, which employs more than 20 staff, would be able to operate as normal this week.

Mr Ricketts said: "I opened up and went inside."

"As soon as I was inside it became evident there was a fire, so I shut the doors and called the fire brigade. It has caused some damage but most of it is smoke related. We have got to do some

work on the electrics though. Luckily none of our stock is damaged. A lot of our stuff is boxed, it is only smoke damage to the box so a lot can be re-boxed."

It could have been a lot worse, there was nobody on site."

Although it is known where it started the cause is not clear and has damaged machinery.

"It destroyed our forklift truck, we had only just spent £2,000 on it a couple of months ago."

"It started on the shop floor, we don't know exactly what caused it. The way it has burned slowly it is a good indicator it is not arson."

A STORE owner says that plans to expand his Walsall business may be in jeopardy after he lost at least £2,000 during a raid by a gang of five men.

He is this week counting the cost after a safe and about £2,000 in cash was stolen by the gang who he said spoke in East European accents, during a distraction theft at Spend 'N' Save, in Pleck Road.

Proprietor Ajaib Garcha said the thieves walked into the store near Walsall Manor Hospital and paid for about £50 worth of goods shortly after 12.35pm last Tuesday.

His son, 23-year-old Gurinder, who was serving them, spotted that one of the group had made his way to a staircase leading to offices at the premises.

Mr Garcha said: "The same group of people visited the shop the previous day when other members of staff were on duty. They did a similar thing and bought some items and one of them managed to sneak upstairs, but I came in and they left."

Dropped

"This time my son was there. They kept him busy and were buying a lot of things, but he began to suspect something wasn't right when one of the people went upstairs."

"This person went into the office, opened the window, picked up the safe and dropped it outside."

"There were more of them in a car outside, but by the time my son looked at the CCTV screens and pressed the security alarm button they all left. Cameras at the other shops nearby had filmed it all."

"The business has been going since 2007 and we've



Ajaib Garcha at the shop

never seen those people before until Tuesday when about six of them came in that time. They spoke good English. We recognised their faces from the images taken the day before."

"They all seem to be grown men aged in their 30s and 40s and they spent quite a bit of money at the till. This has left my son in shock, but otherwise unhurt. They clearly set about distracting him. We are still checking, but I would say we lost about £2,000."

Mr Garcha's plans to expand the business to the tune of £200,000 and create 10 new jobs are now up in the air because of the theft.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "We are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the theft or who may have seen these men leave the store and drive off to come forward."

£150,000 hospital fine over waiting

WALSALL Manor Hospital has been fined almost £150,000 this year after patients were left waiting in ambulances for too long, latest figures have revealed.

The health trust which runs the Manor has received a £142,800 bill so far since April because of the amount of people who have waited longer than half-an-hour A&E. The number of people kept between 30 minutes and one hour increased to 74 in September, up from 55 during the previous month. There were also three patients waiting over 60 minutes. It has been given a £17,800 fine for September, which despite an increase on August, is lower than the £37,000 bill in July.

A report to Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust board said: "Performance of 74.69 per cent in September is a slight decline compared to 75.01 per cent recorded in August. As stipulated in the national contract, £200 will be applied for every handover recorded between 30 and 60 minutes and £1,000 will be applied for any handover over 60 minutes."

"For September, a fine of £17,800 will be incurred. There were four days during the month when over 90 ambulances arrived at the department with one of these days recording over 100."

● Patients – Page 5

£1.5m JTF is set to open

A £1.5 million discount goods warehouse in Walsall that will create 60 jobs will officially open its doors at the weekend.

The huge unit is at the Bescot Retail Park off Broadway West. It will sell goods including clothing, furniture and DIY items plus multi-packs.

Other stores at the site near Bank's Stadium include Matalan, McDonalds and Farmfoods. JTF will hold special events on November 8 and 9.

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Gallery opening hours to be cut

OPENING hours are to be cut at the iconic Walsall New Art Gallery to help save cash – despite a recent grant of almost £500,000 to carry out improvements.

The gallery will close an hour earlier each day for 20 weeks throughout winter, as part of cost-cutting measures put forward by Walsall Council.

It means from next year the build-

ing will open for 80 fewer hours between October and March, reducing the time available to view some of the collections of art on display.

The plan to close at 4pm rather than 5pm from Tuesday to Friday is only expected to save the council just over £5,000 a year.

The council needs to save a total of £86m over the next four years.

The £21 million building in Gal-

lery Square, Walsall, was opened by the Queen in 2000.

It has since welcomed a total of more than 2.3million visitors through its doors to view exhibitions by internationally renowned artists and emerging local talent from the West Midlands.

This has included the work of the widely-renowned Damien Hirst.

Council bosses say there would be

no impact on Costa Coffee and there are no redundancies connected with the plan as part of the initial budget suggestions.

A report to the council states: "This proposal will reduce the hours people can view or work with collections in the New Art Gallery for 80 hours during the winter period."

"This should only be a relatively minor inconvenience to customers."

Fewer repairs due on area's potholes

FEWER pothole-ravaged roads in Walsall will be repaired under plans to cut £180,000 of funding towards emergency work.

Cash towards fixing potholes is poised to be reduced by 20 per cent in the next two years under Walsall Council proposals. It comes despite a warning the reduction for emergency highway and footpath repairs could leave the authority exposed to more insurance claims.

Women get 80pc wages men receive

WOMEN in the West Midlands are being paid 80 pence for every pound a man earns, according to new figures.

The Labour has released the figures as it made an election pledge to ask big companies with over 250 staff in the West Midlands to publish their average hourly pay gap each year to expose whether men and women are being paid differently for doing the same work, and whether too few women occupy senior positions.

The revelation comes as Equal Pay Day – the day that women across the UK effectively start working for free due to the gender pay gap – came three days earlier this year because the pay gap is back on the rise.

Officials say it means women will work for free for the next 57 days.

Gloria De Piero MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities said:

"Women are working an extra three days for free this year because the pay gap is back on the rise. Women shouldn't have to wait another 50 years for Equal Pay which is why Labour will be calling a vote in Parliament to get big companies to publish their pay gap."

"Highway maintenance claims have the potential to place the council at significant financial risk.

"If the council is unable to carry out as many emergency repairs as it currently does it will inevitably be placed at greater risk of increased risk and insurance claims and the costs associated with dealing with claims matters.

It adds: "Less maintenance will mean that pedestrians and road users are placed at greater risk of injury and damage.

"This will mean that there are fewer works orders placed with our term contractor Lafarge Tarmac."

Free parking fight launches



Front, Kalie Plant, Lee Dukes, Adam Hicken, Douglas Hansen-Luke, Faith Hancock

BANNER-WAVING motorists and traders held a protest in Willenhall town centre over moves to introduce parking charges for shoppers for the first time.

A petition against the move has so far attracted around 1,100 supporters after the organisers took to the streets to raise awareness of the issue. Council chiefs want to push for fees at free car parks across the borough in a bid to rake in up to £100,000 next year under budget plans. In Willenhall pay and display machines are proposed

for locations including Gomer Street, Hall Street and Wolverhampton Street.

But Willenhall Ay We action group said the move will hit trade in the town that has suffered from the closure of a number of lock factories and foundries in recent years.

John Hancock, of the group, said: "We have been collecting signatures for about three days. People are saying if these parking charges come in their businesses will close. These fees will kill the town completely."

Noddy to help out at event

SLADE star Noddy Holder will lead a charity event in Walsall year after agreeing to help the Mayor.

Noddy received the freedom of the borough earlier this year and promised to get involved in Mayor Councillor Pete Smith's fundraising appeal.

Now he has agreed to comper an event at the town hall on March 27. Full details of the event have not yet been revealed.

Councillor Smith said: "I am sure that Walsall folk, including his long standing fans, both local and beyond, will give him a warm welcome." Hundreds of people turned out to see the Caldmere-born star receive the honour in June.

At the time he said: "This is a great thing for the profile of Walsall, especially for the arts world. The Black Country is still going strong. When people come here it's the people's hospitality that can't be beat."

Heading out to the country

THE Walsall Group of the Ramblers will be heading to Much Wenlock for a circular walk on Sunday.

"To the Windmill and Beyond" is a moderate 10-mile walk along a disused railway, field paths and part of the Severn Way.

Non members are always welcome and should contact the walk leaders for more information on 01922 637850. More details on the group are available at www.walsallramblers.co.uk

Choir in bid for libraries

A MALE voice choir from Walsall is giving a concert next week to raise money for Sandwell Libraries' charity.

Walsall Harmonic Voice Choir is performing on Friday November 14 at 7.30 in Hamstead Library.

For further information and to book a seat, priced at £3.50, please contact the library on 0121-569-2548.

Back to the 50s

A TALK about the 1950s is taking place at Walsall Museum on November 13. Paul Harding, of professional historical interpreters Discover History, will look at the decade. It takes place from 2pm to 3pm and costs £2. Book on 01922 653116.

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Market to relocate next year in revamp

WALSALL Market will relocate its new permanent home next year in a £1.7 million revamp after councillors backed the long-awaited move.

The stalls will be completely cleared from High Street and Digbeth to make way for the new look site next year. The 800-year-old market will be situated on The Bridge where some traders have been temporarily located since 2009.

Walsall Council's cabinet agreed to the facelift which will see around 70 stands created. The market is being relocated to make way for new Primark and Co-op stores under the £21m revamp of Old Square Shopping Centre.

There are also plans to create 11 units for retail, restaurants and leisure in Digbeth and Lower Hall Lane as part of the £12 million St Matthews Quarter development bringing around 200 new jobs.

Regeneration chief Councillor Mohammed Nazir said: "We will continue to work towards improvements to the town centre by supporting the Market Working Group and the regeneration team to ensure that the stalls are relocated by 2015."

Revamp date for police HQ

THE near £33 million revamp of the West Midlands Police headquarters is set to be completed by September 2016. Over 1,000 staff have already been re-located from Lloyd House in Birmingham city centre in preparation for the building work that is scheduled for January.

The redevelopment of the building is due to take 87 weeks with the phased return of employees to the first few completed floors anticipated to take place between November and December next year.

The exact cost is expected to be finalised shortly.

Flag to fly high

THE official Willenhall flag is set to be launched at a special event on Saturday. Visitors from Willenhall's twin town, Drancy in France, will be among those in attendance, at 1.30pm, to see the flag raised up the town's permanent flag pole outside Willenhall Library.

Chiefs' apology after oxygen supply error

HEALTH bosses in Sandwell have apologised after a cancer patient was connected to an oxygen cylinder that was not releasing air.

The incident happened at Sandwell General Hospital when Roland Bull, aged 68, of Hill Top, West Bromwich, was deprived of oxygen when taken to an ambulance before being discharged home. He died 20 minutes after returning to his home.

Bosses at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust said they have 'strengthened their processes'. Smethwick Coroner's Court was told how nurses at the

hospital did not have official training to use the oxygen cylinders.

Miss Marissa Thomas, a nurse at the hospital, told the inquest how she checked a gauge displaying the levels of oxygen in the cylinder and how she would turn the valve to its highest setting so she could hear 'a hiss' or feel oxygen come out of it.

She said: "I had never had any training regarding the cylinders. I had only been told how to check for the gauge and how to use the cylinders."

Colin Ovington, the chief nurse at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals,

said during the hearing that air coming out of the cylinder did not necessarily mean the seal was open.

He was asked by the coroner if oxygen could come out if the seal was still in place.

Mr Ovington said: "You can get a small amount of hiss or oxygen. There is a small probability it could happen."

David Watson, who was part of the transportation services team to take Mr Bull home, was the person who spotted the oxygen canister was still sealed.

During the journey Mr Bull received oxygen from the ambulance's supply but had

been connected to the sealed cylinder when taken from the ward to the vehicle.

He said: "I got the oxygen cylinder that he came into the ambulance with and it was then I realised that seal was still intact."

In a statement released after the hearing Mr Ovington, said: "Our sincerest condolences are with Mr Bull's family and friends. We have spent time with his family over recent weeks. We have apologised for the care that Mr Bull received and have strengthened our processes." Mr Bull's son Wayne said: "My dad was a great bloke and it is sad this is the ending he got."

Main routes to be gritted in extreme weather chosen

MAIN routes that will be cleared in extreme weather to keep services going have been chosen by council bosses.

A new action plan is being drawn up for how Walsall will deal with heavy snow and plummeting temperatures to stop services grinding to a halt. The Government now requires every council to come up with a plan for extreme weather conditions.

Man jailed for attempt to steal van

A MAN from Willenhall who tried to rob a West Midlands Police scene's of crime officer of her van when she stopped at traffic lights has been jailed for 18 months. Andrew Baker opened a door on the vehicle and he tried to snatch the keys during a short struggle with the 'vulnerable' police employee, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Robert Price, prosecuting, said the woman who fortunately escaped with only minor injuries bravely told Baker to go and he then walked away from the scene.

Baker of Threshers Way, Willenhall, admitted attempted robbery. Mr Gurdeep Garcha, mitigating, said the 33-year-old had a number of previous convictions for robbery but had managed to keep out of trouble with the police for 10 years.

Judge John Warner said it was clear Baker had tried to take the van by force, adding: "It must have been an extremely unpleasant experience for this woman. This was a lone woman in a vehicle and she was in a vulnerable position."

It includes which roads will be gritted and ploughed to allow bin collections to continue and traffic to keep moving.

Council chiefs have put together a draft plan that they will put into practice over the winter.

Areas that will be cleared during thick snow include the A4124 in Willenhall, the Broadway in the town centre, Lichfield Road in Bloxwich, Aldridge Road and Pleck Road in Pleck.

Council chiefs want to keep the town's main ring road clear, and routes through the neighbouring centres such as Darlaston and Willenhall.

A report to the council states: "Maintaining the safety of the travelling public during the winter period is vital to the health and wellbeing of all residents and businesses in the borough."

It comes as stockpiles of grit are accumulating in Brownhills as the borough's fleet of gritting vehicles get ready for another winter.

The Apex Road depot has been stocked with around 3,000 tonnes of salt which is ready to be spread when the mercury drops below zero on around 218 miles of designated roads.

In recent weeks, crews have been busy replenishing the 200 grit bins around the borough to ensure enough salt is available for residents to apply.

Clara's 105th milestone celebrations



Celebrations for Clara Derry at Ash Grange Nursing Home in Bloxwich who has marked her 105th birthday

A GREAT-grandmother has celebrated her 105th birthday by inviting friends and family to a party.

Clara Derry of Walsall was forced to give up dancing years ago but still sings along to her favourite songs.

Her only son, Malcolm, aged 61, who lives in Pelsall but runs a bar in Mallorca, Spain, celebrated at Ash Grange Nursing Home in Valley Road, Blakenall, with his mother.

He said: "She's the only survivor out of her and her four siblings. I re-

ally don't know what it is that means she's lived so long, she would probably say luck. She has never smoked and doesn't drink much. She says she's not going anywhere yet."

Mrs Derry grew up in Blakenall and was employed as a factory worker before becoming a cleaner at Green Rock Primary, Mersey Road. She and her late husband Jack, who died of a stroke in 1977, had two sons, Malcolm and Jack, who died when he was five.

She has twin grandchildren, Claire

Smith and Scott Derry, aged 39, and three great-grandchildren, nine-year-old Samuel Smith, Niamh Derry, aged five, and four-year-old Ava Smith.

Last year, she celebrated her 104th birthday with live music from a local artist who sang 1960s pop music at a party held in her honour. Walsall's former Mayor, Councillor Mohammad Nazir, also paid a visit to the nursing home to wish her happy birthday.

For her 103rd birthday, a karaoke party was held at the nursing home.

Fake certificate woman is guilty

A SMETHWICK woman has pleaded guilty to possessing a fake birth certificate and making a false statement to get a passport.

Patricia Jarrett, aged 40, of Cheshire Road, admitted seven charges of fraud at Wolverhampton Crown Court. She pleaded guilty to possession of a fake birth certificate; making false representation to obtain a provisional driving licence; possession of the driving licence and making an untrue statement to obtain a passport.

Jarrett will be sentenced on November 13.

Garden's boost for good causes

THE owners of an award-winning garden in Walsall raised more than £750 during two recent open days.

The Four Seasons Garden, in Buchanan Road, recently opened to visitors over a weekend and raised £763.50 for the National Garden Scheme, which supports charities such as Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

A total of 213 people visited the garden owned by Marie and Tony Newton.

Extra spaces due at town centre

DERELICT land will be temporarily used for 40 extra parking spaces in Walsall town centre after getting planning approval.

A former tannery building in Hatherton Street was pulled down during the summer to be used for long-term regeneration as part of the £400m Giga-port scheme. But consent has been granted for it to be temporarily used for car parking for five years.

Christmas fair at community centre

A CHRISTMAS fair will be held at a community centre in Walsall on December 6.

The Stan Ball Centre, Abbots Street, Bloxwich, is hosting the event from 10am to 1pm. Stalls will include crafts, gifts, and a tombola. Admission is free and there will be a Santa's grotto. Tables cost £8 or £5 for charities. To book, call 01922 403351.

Hall fair date

A VINTAGE and hand-made fair is due at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday. The event runs from 11am and 4pm. Admission is £1 and anyone interested in a stall can email vintage.duo@hotmail.co.uk

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



IF HS2 goes from London to Birmingham and HS3 from Leeds to Manchester, what next? A reader suggests HS4 to whisk MPs from the Commons to their free bars, and HS5 to take "out-of-touch politicians and greedy bankers" out of London and straight over the 500 ft cliff at Beachy Head.

NATIONAL Grid, facing a shortage of electricity, has warned it may have to reduce voltage, leading to "brown-outs" of dimmed bulbs this winter. In this age of dismal, low-energy bulbs, will anyone notice? Remember when a single 100 watt bulb filled your room with glorious light? Own up. How many of us are still sitting on stockpiles of wicked old, planet-killing 100-watters? By their bright homes shall ye know them.

ON the Guardian website, of all places, someone emails: "Why should any man support a feminist movement?" He's commenting on David Cameron's refusal to wear a T-shirt with the logo: "This is what a feminist looks like." You can see the emailer's point. Feminism is about promoting the rights of women, which presumably could diminish the rights of us males. If working-class people who vote Tory are denounced as class traitors, isn't a man who supports feminism a gender-traitor?

IF you thought the commercialisation of law had gone far enough with driver-awareness courses, consider a recent case in Wolverhampton where eight men have been ordered to attend a "kerb crawlers" rehabilitation course." Both hands on the dashboard, Mr Jones.

A NEW super-computer means the Met Office will be able to give us 100 per cent accurate weather forecasts. And where's the fun in that?



TINY victory for common sense. Stephen Gough, the so-called "Naked Rambler," has lost his case at the European Court of Human Rights. The court ruled that the law "does not go so far as to enable individuals, even those sincerely convinced of the virtue of their own beliefs, to repeatedly impose their anti-social conduct on other, unwilling members of society." In other words, there is no human right to behave like a total prat.

I SHOULD have known that mentioning the Mamod steam engine would trigger all sorts of dangerous yearnings among blokes of a certain age. One reader confesses he drank the methylated spirits that came with his Mamod, just to see what it was like. Another fondly recalls his first chemistry set which not only contained the ingredients for gunpowder but gave you the proper names for the chemicals, so you could order much bigger quantities at your chemists. There was a time in the 1950-60s when a fair proportion of little British boys were not only in possession of bomb-making equipment but out of their heads on meths. Mind you, we didn't have a Terrorism Act then.

INCIDENTALLY, Mamod, founded in 1936 is still in business, chugging away at a factory in Smethwick. <http://www.mamod.co.uk/>

WELL done, Miranda Hart, for honouring one of the oldest rules of showbiz: always leave 'em wanting more. After three series, she has decided to make no more episodes of Miranda. She is following the example of Fawlty Towers, which had only 12 episodes. And she's avoiding the grisly mistake of Last of the Summer Wine which dragged merclessly on, like an incurable boil, for 31 series. It lasted from 1973 until 2010 relying on one single gag, namely old blokes doing daft things in a Yorkshire accent. Ee bah gum, it did go on.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Burial and cremation fees to go up

BURIAL and cremation fees will rise again in Walsall next year, cash-strapped council bosses have revealed.

Charges for bereavement services in the borough are earmarked to increase by three per cent. It means the cost of a cremation would go up by £19 to £657 in 2015 and burials by £83 to £2,835 and it comes after last year fees rose by five per cent.

The latest increase is expected to generate around £90,000 with the money reinvested into the service, bosses have said. There are long-term plans to increase space at Willenhall Lawn Cemetery by up to 5,000 more plots.

Councillor Khizar Hussain, cabinet member for community, leisure and culture said: "The council continues to invest in the service and

we have identified further improvements to our bereavement services in the near future.

"Subject to planning approvals, we intend to extend Willenhall Lawn Cemetery in the next year or two to provide additional land to increase our burial capacity. Each year we review our fees for bereavement and registration services to ensure our high standards are maintained.

Annually we spend around £80k on safety repairs to memorials within our cemeteries and have extended several of them with additional burial areas in recent financial years to ensure they meet the needs of the borough's residents both now and well into the future."

The increase is part of the council's proposals to save £86 million over the next four years.

Residents urged to take their free jabs

HIGH-RISK residents are being urged to get their flu jabs as the colder weather draws in.

Mums-to-be, children aged two to four, over-65s and people with existing health conditions are being targeted. The flu vaccine is free for such groups and people should see their GP or practice nurse for information.

Councillor Ian Robertson, portfolio holder for health with Walsall Council, said: "There is a belief that flu is just a heavy cough and cold but it is a really nasty infection that can lead to some serious complications.

"We're appealing to pregnant women, people under 65 with existing health conditions such as diabetes, severe asthma, chest or heart complaints, and the under-65s to get their free flu vaccination sorted as soon as possible.

"If anyone in these high risk groups has any doubts, I would urge them to talk to their GP, midwife, district nurse or any other health professional.

"If you get the flu not only will it make you feel absolutely lousy, confining you to bed for several days, it has a knock-on effect for the rest of your family and the wider community."

Festive fair for charity

A CHRISTMAS fair will be held later this month to help raise funds for a charity which was set up in memory of a teenager from Aldridge who was stabbed to death in Birmingham.

It will be held at Aldridge Compass Suites, The Green, Aldridge, on November 23 in aid of Rosie's Helping Hands. There will be a Santa's grotto and storytime sessions.

Admission is £1. The charity was set up by Karen and Sean Ross after their 16-year-old daughter Rosie Ross, from Aldridge, was stabbed to death in 2001.

Christmas fair

PREPARATIONS are under way for the annual Christmas fair at Rushall Parish Church. The fundraising event will take place on November 22 in the church hall, in Leigh Road, Walsall at the premises, also known as St Michael's. Doors open at 11am. Admission is free.

Deceitful salon boss loses jail term appeal

AN 'incorrigibly dishonest' hair salon boss, who conned her way out of paying for £9,000-worth of styling products and rent, must put up with her jail term, judges ruled.

Tina Patel, aged 38, of Boulevard Walk, Walsall, cheated suppliers and her landlady, using cheques she either knew she could not cover or which came from a closed account.

The serial fraudster was jailed for three-and-a-half years at Wolverhampton Crown Court in May, after she admitted five counts of fraud. Three judges at London's Appeal Court have now rejected a sentence challenge by the deceitful salon boss, saying her sentence may be 'severe' but certainly not 'manifestly excessive'.

Judge Anthony Morris QC said Patel placed an order for £265 worth of products from supplier, Pro Impressions, in March, 2012, promising to pay by bank transfer.

However, she covered the sum using a cheque she knew would bounce. She later ordered a further £644-worth of items from the firm and repeated the same trick.

Patel made two orders from AKS Hair & Beauty Ltd, worth £448, again writing bouncing cheques. She then placed a further order for products from the firm in excess of £2,000 while pretending to be someone else. She also built up thousands of pounds of arrears with her landlady, Nicky Aulton.

by Adam Burling

Judge Morris said the total amount defrauded was between £8,000 and £9,000 with the offending taking place over a 15-month period. Patel had four previous convictions for 35 offences, all involving fraud or dishonesty. At the time that she committed four of the latest offences, she was on a licence from a previous sentence.

The judge who sentenced her described her as 'incorrigibly dishonest' and said it appeared that 'deceit was her second-nature'. He said she had shown a 'total lack of remorse'. Applying to appeal, her barrister, Tom Schofield, argued that she was under acute financial pressure at the time.

But Judge Morris, sitting with Lord Justice Pitchford and Mrs Justice Cox, ruled: 'In our judgment, this sentence, while severe, was not manifestly excessive.'

Poet in call to writers

BUDDING poets are being urged to get in touch with Walsall's Poet Laureate to share their work.

Donovan Campbell was appointed Poet Laureate in June this year. Mr Campbell is looking for poets and creative writers who would be willing to share and discuss their work with him in an interview at the recording studios for Walsall Talking News.

The service is provided by the Walsall Society for the Blind (WSB) for all blind and partially sighted people within the borough. Anyone interested should email talktopeace@hotmail.co.uk or call Mr Campbell on 07915 644479.

Cold water poured on fountain



The Source of Ingenuity statue, The Bridge, Walsall, which is due to be put in storage

THE beleaguered Source of Ingenuity fountain is to be pulled down and put into storage to make way for the Walsall's new look market, it has emerged.

The water feature arrived as part of the £2 million revamp of the town's Civic Square but was turned off in 2005 amid fears of Legionnaires Disease contamination. The sculpture, based on Janus the two-faced Roman god of time, requires thousands of pounds worth of repairs.

But council chiefs say it will be removed

as part of the overhaul of the town centre and there are no plans to bring it back.

Leader of Walsall Council Sean Coughlan said: "There are no plans to relocate the fountain at the moment because we have to find a site and the money first. It will be going into storage for the time being."

It was designed by artist Tom Lomax who created Birmingham's The Spirit of Enterprise fountain in Centenary Square. It will be moved under plans to permanently relocate the 800-year-old Walsall Market.

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Cutbacks to affect cleaning of streets

STREETS will be swept just once a month in Walsall under the latest council cutbacks revealed.

Council bosses have announced that instead of cleaning the main routes through the borough once a fortnight as is currently the case they will be looked at every four weeks.

As a result officials have warned that drains could become blocked and that street cleaning, including the removal of graffiti and litter picking, will be cut back as part of moves to save £477,000 in 2015/16.

There are fears the move could leave the area looking a mess but residents will be encouraged to take more 'responsibility' for the area they live in.

As part of the changes some 15 of the 58 'environmental operative' jobs will be lost at Walsall Council and the number of mechanical sweepers will be slashed from two to one.

The council says it can not even pay for cover when staff are off sick or on annual leave.

Blakenall Councillor Pete Smith said: "The streets will be full of extra waste anyway because of the bins being collected fortnightly. These are the worst cuts I've ever known."

Mortgages record hope

A WALSALL mortgage business is on target to break its annual record for issuing new mortgages.

A strong third quarter has seen Crystal Mortgages almost surpass last year's record figures, with the firm having issued terms of £460 million to date against £479m for the whole of 2013.

Between July to September the business issued terms on £142.2m worth of applications, with completions across the product portfolio up 168 per cent compared to the same period last year.

Bridge site boost

WORK has started to expand Bentley Bridge Retail Park in Wednesfield. Clowes Developments UK Ltd has begun 'Phase 2' of the scheme, which is due to be completed by February. Once finished, there will be more units, ranging in size from 5,000 to 33,000sq ft.

We'll inspire generation of Olympic heroes



Denise chats with student Jess Rayner

DENISE Lewis said a new institute she opened at the University of Wolverhampton's Walsall campus will inspire a new generation of Olympic heroes.

The gold medal-winning heptathlete did the honours at the site, which is said to have some of the best facilities in the country to train up sports professionals.

And Denise, who is from Wolverhampton and won gold in the heptathlon at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, said she thought it would put the Black Country on the sporting map. She received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters from the university in September, recognising her sporting success and charity work.

Denise said: "One of the key elements of success is to have the opportunity and this university is providing these opportunities. You can only produce champions when they are in the right environment, with the best facilities and when you have the best of the best working together. There have been students here who have achieved Commonwealth Medals and a gold is what we are still waiting for." The Olympic star chatted to students who will be using the facilities. The institute will bring together all the

university's sporting activities, including degree courses, multi-million pound facilities, research, staff expertise and sports participation for students, staff and the community. It also aims to develop promising sports scholars.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton, Professor Geoff Laver said Denise was a role model to students studying in the Black Country. The campus in Walsall is also home to the £1 million British Judo Centre of Excellence, which Denise was again on hand to open in November last year.

A&E patients seen within four hours at highest level

THE number of patients seen at Walsall Manor A&E within four hours has improved to its highest level this year, bosses have revealed.

However, despite the number of people waiting too long at the hospital falling it has still failed to reach the national benchmark. It comes after Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust was recently fined £120,000 for the time patients were left waiting in A&E.

Latest figures show just over 93 per cent of patients were seen inside four hours in September, and is set to hit 94 per cent this month.

The Government aims for 95 per cent, although after struggling to reach the target bosses at the Manor have set short-term improvement goals.

Health chiefs have been recruiting up to 70 new nurses in a bid to ease the pressure on Walsall Manor which has seen rising numbers of people coming from Staffordshire.

In an update report to board members, chief executive Richard Kirby says: "After many months in which we have struggled to accommodate emergency admissions within the capacity available I am pleased that our performance against the national four-hour A&E standard improved to 93 per cent in September. "We are currently on track to deliver our plan for 94 per cent in October."

The trust was previously fined for failing to meet its four-hour target between July and September this year. A total of 88 per cent of patients were seen within four hours or less during the three-month period. It emerged earlier this week that almost 50,000 appointments were missed by patients at the Manor and community clinics in just 12 months.

Stranger than Fiction for latest show



Doblin the goblin, Emma Fox, of Bentley; Sharon Cooper from West Bromwich and Dudley the Ghoul - Stephen

AUDIENCES will be invited into the writer's room as the weird and wonderful blurs into one during an upcoming comedy production.

Members of the All Saints Players theatre group are preparing to present the Alan Ayckbourn play Improbable Fiction.

It tells the story of Arnold, chairman of the local writers' group while working as a writer of instruction manuals, as he gathers his pals together. After unsuccessfully trying to

persuade the group to collaborate on a piece of writing, Arnold is left forlorn.

Suddenly, he is taken on a journey into the fantasy worlds of fellow writers as the collaboration comes together before his very eyes.

Final preparations are under way for the show from November 11 to 14 at All Saints Church, in All Saints Way, West Bromwich, with curtain up each night from 7.30pm. Group publicity officer Ken Ford, of Great Barr, says the show has proved an amusing

project to put together, with costumes and props including a large walnut shell for one of the cast members to use as a boat in the play.

"It has been great to put together and has been a lot of fun," said Mr Ford, aged 67, from Hamstead.

The show features Dudley the Ghost which is timely with the spooky goings on around Halloween.

Tickets are priced at £4.50 and £4 for concessions - call Kath on 0121 558 4786.

Stones hurled by children on bridge

CHILDREN were seen throwing stones at cars from a bridge over the M6. Police were called to Junction 10 for Walsall at 11.30am last Tuesday after a driver said one of the stones hit his car. Police spokeswoman Catherine Hickman said: "Central Motorway Police Group will make some follow up enquiries and pay passing attention to the area."

Chief Inspector Jed White, of Central Motorway Policing Group, said: "This is a dangerous prank and could so easily have caused someone serious harm."

Traders urged to sign up for event

THE return of a market to Brownhills could have to be scrapped unless more traders sign up for the two-day event.

The Christmas pitch is being planned in the Ravenscourt precinct on December 13 and 14. The aim is for up to 40 traders selling a range of niche goods.

At least 20 stalls need to be confirmed for the market to go-ahead with six signed up. Anyone interested needs to contact RollisN@walsall.gov.uk or call 07904 264920.

Garage in team kit supply move

A COMPETITION has been launched by a Black Country petrol station to provide a brand new football team kit.

Shelfield Service Station in Walsall wants to provide a strip to a deserving cause.

A nomination form can be picked up at the station in Lichfield Road. They must be submitted by November 30 with the winning team announced on December 15.

Final plans for homes sent in

FINAL plans have been submitted for dozens of new homes on land in Walsall under a regeneration scheme. A total of 26 homes have been earmarked on the site between Churchill Road and Kent Road in Bentley.

Outline plans were put forward in 2011 and final details have now been lodged with planners.

Drugs concern

POLICE have stepped up patrols in Darlaston following complaints of drug dealing. Concerns have been raised about illegal activity in and around Park Street. Officers have increased patrols.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

AS part of a campaign by the Fawcett Society, a number of politicians including Ed Miliband, Nick Clegg, and Harriet Harman have been persuaded to wear a T-shirt bearing the words 'This is what a feminist looks like'.

Now a newspaper has claimed that the T-shirts, which are being sold in the trendy clothes shop Whistles, are being made in Indian sweatshops by women workers who are paid the princely sum of 62p an hour.

Personally, I'm always suspicious about these 'raising awareness' campaigns, which usually seem to be more about the people taking part than the causes behind them.

It seems risible that anyone can really change anything just by wearing a T-shirt.

And not being funny ladies, but if you really are serious about wanting to get people to join your cause, telling them they will look like Ed Miliband really does seem a strange way of going about it.

FOR many people, particularly the elderly, Halloween now seems to be a night of terror.

Teenagers who are really old enough to know better use the tradition of Trick or Treat as an excuse to demand money with menaces from some of the most vulnerable members of society.

Yet while this rather unpleasant aspect of Halloween seems to have grown exponentially over the past decade or so, has anybody wondered what has happened to the good old 'penny for the guy'?

Of course, the penny was usually five pence, and I suppose there aren't so many of the ad-hoc bonfire displays around these days for them to burn their guys.

But even so, you might think that some of the schools could involve youngsters in keeping this old tradition alive.

At least seeking a penny for the guy involved a bit of effort and workmanship on the part of the youngsters. These days, it seems a hat from the pound shop and an aerosol can for graffiti is about the limit of their ingenuity.

TALK about man's best friend. Alleged drug producer Edward Henderson found the game was up when he was turned in by his own dog.

Henderson tried to make a run for it when police raided his house in Alabama, and managed to hide in the long grass while officers searched for him.

But Henderson was rumbled when an officer told the suspect's dog, Bo, 'go get him', and the dog ran into the field, searched out his master and stood over him, wagging his tail.

By the way, Henderson lives in a city called Prattville. You don't say.



All smiles as ISP workers wave flags



The Queen checks out a plan of the JLR site



A posy from Amelia Hughes, aged five

Wave of smiles for Queen's visit

Cheers and flags flying as thousands turn out to welcome Her Majesty. ROB GOLLEDGE reports

CROWDS cheered, Union Flags were held up and hundreds of camera phones burst into life when Her Majesty The Queen made her first visit to Wolverhampton in two decades.

Arriving at the city's railway station by Royal train, she then made the four-mile journey along the A449 Stafford Road in a Range Rover to the i54 business park.

Wearing a stunning Peter Enrie teal dress and coat with matching Rachel Trevor-Morgan hat, Her Majesty also carried one of her trademark Wal-sall-made Launer London handbags for the visit to Jaguar Land Rover's £500 million Engine Manufacturing Centre and International Security Printers.

Animated

Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, the 88-year-old monarch was animated and cheery throughout both visits, which lasted nearly an hour apiece, chatting to senior managers, workers and schoolchildren.

At International Security Printers, Her Majesty was talked through the stamp-printing process, even removing one her leather gloves to feel the texture of a felt stamp, before seeing the presses run.

The Queen shared jokes with staff during a tour of the world-leading company, which produces stamps for 180 countries. She came face to face with her printed image and viewed historical stamps from the past 50 years.

The firm printed the stamps for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's wedding. She also looked at a forthcoming



The Royal party is given an introduction before their JLR tour

Royal Mail commission celebrating Inventive Britain, showcasing steel-making and the invention of the internet.

At JLR, she toured two parts of the factory, one where engine components are made and the other where they are assembled. She also met schoolchildren from Wednesfield High School, which specialises in engineering, and Brewood Middle School.

When fully functional, the long-awaited engine plant will have 1,600 staff and see an Ingenium engine some offcome off the productionthe produc-

told Her Majesty: "Your commitment and your sense of duty are an inspiration."

"We are honoured to have your presence to mark one of the most important days in the company's history. These engines represent British engineering at its best. They have been designed and developed by our own engineers, based in the West Midlands."

IPS presented the Queen with a specially-commissioned, engraved metal plaque depicting the premises and a first class stamp.

After weeks of planning for the whistle-stop tour, IPS manufacturing standards manager Andrew Christie said the day had gone perfectly.

"We had a really fabulous day and it was a true honour to welcome the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh," he said.

"We're so pleased with how it all went. She was extremely interested in what we do here and seemed fascinated by the whole process."

Honour

"It was a privilege and an honour to welcome them to our new premises."

At Jaguar Land Rover, pupils from Brewood Middle School waved Union Flags to greet the Royal party.

She toured two manufacturing floors – one where the components of the super-efficient Ingenium engines are made, and another where they are assembled. The company holds the Royal Warrant as Manufacturers of Motor Vehicles, By Appointment from all three current grantors: HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and HRH The Prince of Wales.

She officially opened both JLR and ISP and, along with the Duke, signed the visitors' books. A private lunch at Jaguar Land Rover capped off the historic visit.

The last time Her Majesty was in the region was to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee, when she visited RAF Cosford in 2012

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THERE were laughs and jeers when a Labour MP asked the Prime Minister what he was going to do to tighten up on immigration.

David Cameron kept his tone civil when answering Ian Austin during his weekly question time but insisted on reminding MPs about Labour's own record on that matter. There are, of course, Labour MPs who now acknowledge their party got it wrong on immigration.

Dudley North MP Mr Austin has been holding a series of public meetings and immigration is the topic that gets raised time and time again.

The reason it came to the fore again was because a minister called Nick Boles admitted the government could not control it.

While it was hardly something that would have been signed off by the Number 10 spin team, it was a statement that could have come from the Department of the Blindingly Obvious.

We're in the European Union. And there's the principle of free movement that means people from all its member states can come and go as they please. Our economy's growing, hence the £1.7 billion bill Brussels has slapped us with.

The choice then is to either come out of Europe, re-negotiate the rules on free movement or make Britain a less attractive place to be.

Reforming the benefits system so you can only get out-of-work benefits if you've paid in first by having had a job is a popular idea. So is charging foreign visitors to use the NHS.

Whether either will make a scrap of difference remains to be seen. It is not as though the benefits bill or the NHS's woes are issues that have solely arisen because of immigration.

Two Tory councillors have jumped ship, branding their old party's leadership out of touch. But unlike recent defections elsewhere, they've crossed the floor to Labour rather than run to UKIP.

Cheryl Billingham and Glenis Simms both represent wards in Dudley South, where the incumbent Conservative MP Chris Kelly is standing down. The pair are both up for re-election next May. In the press release sent out by Labour both lay in to their former party's leadership.

Councillor Simms also managed to refer to one of Ed Miliband's key campaign topics, what Labour calls the cost-of-living crisis. And in a particularly withering swipe she says: "As an ordinary working mother I no longer feel at home in David Cameron's Conservative party."

Councillor Simmsand Councillor Billingham both seem to be struggling to defend their party's record in government.

None of that makes the task of the Conservatives in holding on to Dudley South any easier. At the moment they don't even have a candidate.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

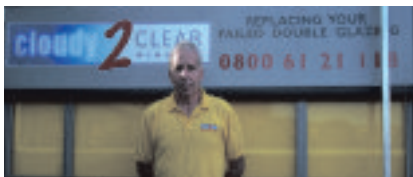
We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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My regret over backing Labour group

IN August, a vote of Walsall councilors decided to give control to the Labour group and with the council composition on a knife edge, I voted for this change.

Having learned of the shocking proposals for '£86 million cuts' by the Labour group, I am regretting already that I supported them and now wish I had maintained my previous record of abstaining on council leadership issues. I honestly hoped that Labour would put up some sort of fight against these cuts rather than draw their leadership allowances (admittedly with a

public relations gesture to reduce them slightly) but then proceed to wield the axe on local jobs and services in a way that makes the previous Conservative/Liberal Democrat leadership pale into insignificance.

I will not stay quiet while the new Labour administration does the 'dirty work' of this government. I call on local people and trade unionists to fight these cuts in order to stop the otherwise inevitable wind down or privatisation of local council services and the corresponding increase in costs of services and losses to local communities

as the 'profit seekers' move in on the money making elements.

I cannot believe that the new Labour administration is going to implement the crackpot idea of charging separately for the brown bins services, charges that will rise year by year, once established, as the fly tipping does likewise, or that it is to close libraries and children's centres, youth services and drastically reduce the maintenance of green spaces. Once again these are false economies that will lead to greater problems.

Cllr Pete Smith, Blakenall Ward

Buildings taxation is untenable

VAT simply discriminates against the repair and adaptation of old buildings. Houses are among our most important historic assets, they make up around 40 per cent of our listed buildings.

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Small and medium size enterprises make a significant contribution to fragile local economies. A single targeted VAT reduction in housing renovation and repair would secure growth, improve our heritage and generate greater returns in jobs and sustainable investment than a discriminatory 20 per cent VAT regime.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Saving Bryntysilio was first priority

THANK you for your coverage (October 27) of the financial settlement between Walsall Council and the small, dedicated, band of trustees who took the council on and, against all the odds, saved Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre.

I was trust secretary from mid-2010 until early 2013, when illness forced my resignation from the trust, so that I am free to speak out. This was the period when the then council, looking to make major savings because of their own Government's attack on local authority funding, had cut all grant funding and all support in kind to the centre, and who then engaged in a prolonged legal battle, the £55,000 cost of which now have to be borne by us, the council taxpayers of Walsall, the aim apparently having been to wear the trust down into accepting the council's derisory offer.

What I found appalling as secretary was the impression that the council were treating the trust as the enemy when, really, they could and should have been working with us to ensure that this marvellous facility was retained for future generations of Walsall children and our schools.

The councilors who presided over this expensive legal battle, which could so easily have resulted in Bryntysilio being lost to Walsall, should hang their heads in shame.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD WORRALL

Ranting on calypso is a calamity

THE UKIP calypso song has been declared racist by the left wing press as well as the pro-EU BBC as it is sung in a Jamaican accent.

Ironically, one of the reasons I took an interest in politics, was due to the political calypsos sung by the late Lance Percival on That Was The Week That Was.

He, as a white man, was well-known and much liked for singing and making up impromptu calypso songs in a Jamaican accent - no-one then, or now, suggests there was anything racist.

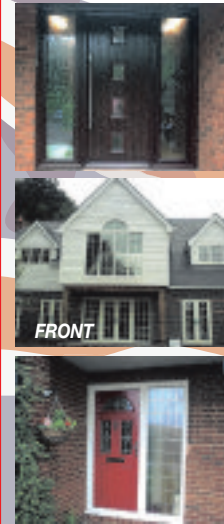
The Mike Read UKIP calypso consists of facts, including one verse on illegal immigrants. I have met and spoken to legal immigrants who complain about illegal immigrants. Does this also mean we can no longer listen to the Labour Party-supporting group, UB40. Its white lead singer, Ali Campbell, sounds like a West Indian when he sings reggae which, like calypso, is West Indian in origin?

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Lifeline centre's future in doubt after 25 years

IT HAS been going for 25 years and for its users, elderly and disabled people in Walsall, it has proved a lifeline.

But now bosses at Bloxwich Day Centre say the future of the facility is in doubt.

At the moment they have around a dozen users and organisers are hoping to sign up more along with sponsors to secure its future. Staff host regular activities and trips for them but need more people through the doors for it to carry on long-term.

Bosses say for some it is just having the company which keeps people going and be a loss to the community if it was forced to shut up.

The centre at the Robert Parker Charity Building, next to All Saints Church, Bloxwich, operates three days a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Activities which are provided range from bingo to knitting to enjoying a hot cooked meal. There are also trips organised to the likes of Penkridge Market, shopping in Telford and they have even been to the Isle of Wight.

Manager Jill Harris said the centre was a place for people to come and have a good time, and they tried to offer whatever the visitors want. "It is somewhere for the elderly and disabled to go to. It is one big happy family. We don't want to close but ideally in the perfect world we could do with more clients."

She added, that with bills to pay and the amount of outgoings they have to contend with, there is a need to encourage more people in. There is a transport service to enable people to get to and from the centre.

The centre is run by three members of staff with usual hours of 8.30am to 3.30pm. There are fears for the long-



Bloxwich Day Centre manager Jill Harris pours tea for visitor Vera Green

term if they cannot get more people through the doors.

Bosses say the centre has suffered since people were given personal budgets to decide more about how to fund their care which meant it no longer received central funding.

Jill added: "We want to try and protect the centre. There are not that many day centres in the area. We have been open 25 years but because of cut-backs were suffering."

"We are slightly off the beaten track and people don't know we are there."

In the case of an excursion to the Isle of Wight it was the first time one lady had been out of the area for over two decades.

The role of day centres has been vital to communities around the country for many years.

It costs £20 for one day, although this reduces due to the number of times a person uses the centre up to a maximum cost of £36.50 a week. For details or to offer any help with sponsorship to safeguard the future of the day centre, call 07903 824698.

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Search for budding festive talent



Trying their bit at entertaining from the Palace are, from left, Victoria Bache, Nikki Rolls and Sue Harvey

EMERGING singers and musicians are being sought to bring some festive fever to the Black Country.

Entertainers are wanted for a series of Christmas events being planned across Walsall over the coming months – fun days have been earmarked across Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall.

They are being run through Walsall Council and budding performers are wanted to help draw in more shoppers and visitors.

This year's Christmas festivities start in Bloxwich on November 29

from 10am to 4pm, with Santa on his Sleigh handing out free gifts to little ones.

An ice rink, children's rides, entertainers and traditional stalls selling jewellery, crafts and hot food are lined up to keep families entertained throughout the day.

Organiser Nikki Rolls, regeneration officer of this year's event in Bloxwich, said they are looking for individuals and bands to take part. "Our Christmas events grow in popularity year-on-year and we're determined that this season's festivities are a roaring

success," she said. "We're on the lookout for singers and bands that can entertain crowds.

"And we know there's a huge amount of talent in Walsall." "These events could be the platform to showcase your singing and musical ability so please get in touch if you think you have what it takes."

Aldridge's Christmas event takes place on November 29, Willenhall on December 6 and Brownhills and Darlaston on December 13.

Anyone interested in volunteering should email RollsN@walsall.gov.uk

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Museums and history centre site on the way

MORE than £6 million is to be spent on a new heritage centre in Walsall with long-awaited plans earmarked for the go-ahead. There had been fears it would go in cuts.

But Walsall Council hopes to push ahead with the multi-million pound scheme combining two museums and a history centre by finding cash from outside sources.

Former council leader Mike Bird had previously said the scheme was 'up in the air' and would depend on what kind of Government finding was made available.

But the now controlling Labour group has earmarked it for investment in 2016/17, with an initial estimate it would cost a total of £6.2m. As part of the project the Walsall Leather Museum, Walsall Museum and Local History Centre will be combined under one roof - with the preferred location still to be confirmed.

It is anticipated work will not start for a couple of years as it has been earmarked as part of the capital programme for 2016/17. The creation of a single site has been in the pipeline for years and more detailed

by Craig Hughes

work can now take place. It comes despite the cash-strapped authority needing to save £86 million over the next four years and the current Walsall Museum earmarked to shut as part of budget cuts to save £70,000.

Councillor Khizar Hussain, leisure chief, said: "This is a great opportunity for us to develop a grade one visitor attraction which will offer a new and exciting venue for the exploration of the history and development of Walsall and its communities."

"It's proposed that the financing for the new centre will come partly from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other external funders, with funds from the council itself as well.

Project fundraisers go on a dummy run



Prince's Trust walkers with their dummy Rodney which they carried on their 13-mile trek

YOUNG people on a Prince's Trust programme put their best foot forward when they carried a nine-stone dummy on a 13-mile trek to Wolverhampton.

A team of 11 youngsters aged between 16 to 25, is taking part in the youth charity's 12-week programme in Shrewsbury, delivered by City of Wolverhampton College.

The group trekked from Kinner Scout camp to the college's Paget Road campus, raising £300 for two community projects they will be working on over the next few weeks.

After camping overnight, the trekkers left Kinner at 9.30am and arrived at the Wolverhampton campus at 3.30pm with the dummy, nicknamed Rodney, on a spinal board. Once there they tucked in to a hot drink and cake in the college's on-site cafe. The Prince's Trust Team programme gives unemployed young people aged 16 to 25 the chance to learn new skills through a range of outdoor activities, community work and work experience.

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Star in stripes Millie in a gr-r-reat new tiger look

BARKING mad pet owner Jackie Simmonds is turning heads in her local town after painting her dog – to look like a tiger.

The 44-year-old dog groomer spent two-and-a half hours turning little cavachon Millie into the jungle beast using a special dye for pets.

She then unveiled her wacky creation to the shock of her husband Ian, 47, and her three children Stephen, 29, Elliott, 16, and Molly, 14.

Jackie, from Burntwood, said her family didn't quite know what to make about the family pet's new look.

But since painting the pooch over two days Jackie says she is proving a hit whenever she takes her walks to the local shopping centre.

She said: "I thought I'd try and get into creative grooming and give the family a surprise – who doesn't like tigers?"

"My husband looked at me like I was mad and the kids were a bit embarrassed but once they've all seen the reaction she's getting I think they have changed their tune."

Ferocious

"I spent about two and a half hours in total using special dye that you can buy from groomers online for about £7.50.

"It's a trend that's big in the USA and Asia but I think it will finally take off in Britain soon as well.

"I can't say she's very ferocious looking though she's as soft as anything. She looks like a baby Tigger from Winnie the Pooh.

"When we went up town everybody wanted selfies, from shop owners to the tattoo parlour guys.

"I spent about two hours in town when I only wanted to pop out for a bit.

"People were beeping their horns and everybody is saying how cute she looks.

"The response has been amazing.

"Millie loves the attention and I've had lots of comments regarding Millie's new look.

"I know it is a very controversial



Dog groomer Jackie Simmonds, with her dog Millie, and her tiger coat

subject and there have been a few people ask me how could I do it and say that it is cruel, which is only to be expected."

However Mrs Simmonds, who runs Chase Dog Grooming and has three dogs, insists the styling is harmless and the products used are specifically for animals.

She said: "The products used are only temporary, some last a few days and some will last for up to eight weeks, dependant on what the customer preference and products used.

"That said, all of the products used are completely safe and are specifically designed for pet use."

The groomer, from Spencer Drive, Chase Terrace, said she would only create designs on dogs which are happy to be groomed.

"You have to know your dog to decide if he or she would appreciate this sort of grooming. Millie and my poodle Ava don't mind being groomed at all, whereby my springer spaniel Daisy would be horrified at the very thought and even when she's in for a bath and clip she shakes all the way through," said Mrs Simmonds.

The artistic designs are only a side-line for the full time dog groomer but she said it is just a bit of fun.

Millie's makeover is not the first time the dog groomer has given her dogs an extreme makeover.

She said: "Ava the poodle was last year dyed pink to look like My Little Pony, complete with purple hooves."

For more information on the service call Mrs Simmonds on 07795464228.

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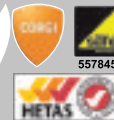
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GRACE Academy Darlaston is inviting the local community to celebrate the outstanding achievements of students at a Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday November, 12, from 5-7pm.

Visitors to the Academy's new £26 million state-of-the-art facilities, will have the opportunity to see first hand the strong work ethic of students. One notable example is a student who achieved an 'A*' for history and was also awarded 100 per cent for his 'Civil Rights in America' paper.

The Academy's hi-tech campus and world class amenities contributed to students and staff achieving a 97 per cent pass rate at A level and Level 3 BTEC, with 100 per cent of the Level 3 BTEC Sport and Child Care students achieving Distinction* or Distinction grades.

Speaking about the facilities on offer for sixth formers at Grace Academy Darlaston, Jayne Gray,

Deputy Principal, said: "Sixth-form students have their own purpose-built centre for both study and socialising.

"Every sixth-form student is given a laptop to help them with their studies and there are numerous financial incentives, including bursaries, to encourage and enable our students to succeed.

Support

"As well as the top-quality building and equipment, a strong sense of family exists throughout the sixth form and regular meetings are held to enhance the experience for students. Staff are designated to support students, both academically and pastorally.

"Students have access to individual support and extra-curricular development opportunities such as business and enterprise days, instrumental lessons, dance classes and sport activities. Sixth-form students also play a vital part in whole-academy activities by taking lead roles in social events and societies and through their

mentoring and buddy roles."

There are large PE, drama and music areas, providing space in and out of lesson time for students to succeed in the world of dance, acting, media and sport.

Performing Arts students can access high-quality performance and musical areas, helping them to practise effectively. Sports provision includes a full size grass football pitch, as well as an all-weather pitch and a multi-use games area.

In line with Grace Academy's Business and Enterprise Specialism, students receive outstanding support and guidance from promi-

nent business leaders from Tesco, Mid-Countries Co-operative, and others to prepare them for the world of work.

Among the extra-curricular activities are: CV writing, attitudes and behaviours in a competitive job market, identifying key skills for success in the workplace and a stock market challenge to test their money-making skills.

The Academy is in Herberts Park Road, Wednesbury, Phone 0121 568 3300, email darlaston@graceacademy.org.uk, or visit www.graceacademy.org.uk/darlaston/

Post 16 Open Evening

Wednesday, 12th November 5-7pm



The students and staff at Grace Academy Darlaston invite you to the first Post 16 Open Evening to be held in our brand new facilities.

Principal's Welcome Presentation - 5:15pm

Herberts Park Road, Darlaston, Wednesbury, WS10 8QJ

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 : @GADp16



Teenager's singing dreams come true



Sophie-Rose Dickinson, aged 16, from Willenhall, who has been chosen to sing at the Theatre Royal in London

A TALENTED teenager fulfilled a lifelong dream after performing on stage at the West End in London. Sophie-Rose Dickinson sang two solos at Her Majesty's Theatre.

The 16-year-old landed a spot on the bill in Mardi Gras after sending a video of herself performing to bosses at the capital's theatre. Her mother Clare Hennessey said: "It was always her dream to perform on the West End. It's been a busy last few years for Sophie-Rose but she loves performing and she finds all the work for herself."

The teen performed On My Own from Les Miserables and Gravity from Wicked on Sunday, October 26.

It has been a busy year for Sophie-Rose, a pupil at Willenhall E-Act Academy. She applied to be on TV talent show The X Factor and made it all the way to the Wembley auditions singing in front of 5,000 people.

Mrs Hennessey added: "She made it down to the last 180 from 100,000 people. She didn't get past that stage, but we were still really proud of her." Sophie-Rose's talents don't end there. She is currently writing her second album, which she hopes to realise early next year.

1,000 food premises inspected over year

AROUND 1,000 food premises have been inspected in Walsall over the last 12 months to ensure they meet hygiene standards.

Seven establishments were closed by environmental health officers amid concerns over an immediate risk to public health. Meanwhile one was shut voluntarily, Walsall Council has said.

Council chiefs say of the checks, which were carried out between October 27, 2013 and October 27, 2014, over 80 per cent were deemed satisfactory or better on the national food hygiene rating system.

It comes as a spate of businesses were temporarily closed by the council during October.

There were four which were forced to shut with issues ranging from mouse infestation, rat droppings and flies.

Shops, restaurants or takeaways which are served with hygiene prohibition orders are able to reopen again once the council is satisfied there are no longer health risks. Of those which closed during the last 12 months, only one did not reopen by their own accord.

David Eltrington, area manager for environmental health, said: "Premises that have been closed are

by Craig Hughes

not legally able to reopen without the environmental health officer's consent and we wouldn't allow the premises to reopen unless the circumstances that led to the closure had been rectified to our satisfaction."

It comes after it recently emerged hundreds of residents and businesses in Walsall have been ordered to clean up waste, amid concerns it could attract rats and mice.

Environmental health officers issued 455 enforcement notices over the last four years ordering landowners to clear away accumulations of rubbish.

Council chiefs say the majority of issues since April 2010 have been around residential properties.

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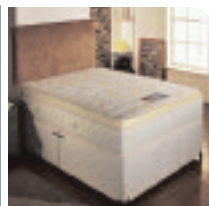
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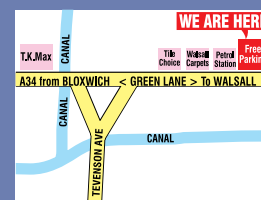
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Rail ticket machines to boost journeys

AUTOMATIC ticket machines along the Chase Line through Walsall will make train journeys easier for passengers, a transport boss has said.

Travellers can now buy tickets before they travel at all stops after the last two machines were installed at Bloxwich North and Landywood stations.

The machines have been placed on all platforms as part of a joint project between public transport co-ordinator Centro and train operator London Midland in a bid to upgrade the train stations across the region.

Centro's lead member for rail and Metro, Councillor Roger Horton, said: "These improvements will make a tangible difference to passengers and make it even easier to take the train."

"This, in turn, will help reduce the road congestion that is costing our regional economy more than £2 billion a year."

Mark Goodall, London Midland's head of route for Cross City and Chase Line Services added: "This is great news for passengers travelling from Landywood and Bloxwich North."

"I know that passengers find the automatic ticket

machines quick and easy to use, so it's great we've been able to work with Centro to deliver these improvements".

Centro has provided more than £250,000 to be used for station improvements with part of the money used for the machines at Bloxwich, Bloxwich North, Landywood and Rugeley Town stations.

This summer Centro also put £145,000 towards the £195,000 cost of continuing to provide extra Saturday and evening services on the Chase Line until March 2016.

Staffordshire County Council and Cannock Chase District Council covered the remainder of the cost. Work on a £36 million electrification of the Chase Line service was also launched earlier this year.

Slippery start for anniversary couple



Peter and Bridget Nolan celebrate their golden wedding, seen with their dogs left Milo and Fizz

IT MAY have been embarrassing at the time but a stumble in the snow led to 50 years of marriage for this happy couple. Peter and Bridget Nolan were both from Ireland but got to know each other when they lived in the same street in Birmingham.

Mr Nolan, from County Carlow and his future wife, from County Meath, would often talk about their childhoods in Ireland after they moved to Algernon Road, Edgbaston in 1960. They would often go to dances with friends at the Shamrock Club near the Hippodrome in Birmingham.

And one night in 1963, with thick snow on the ground during a freezing winter, Mr Nolan lost his footing while they returned home along City Road. Mrs Nolan let out a huge laugh – and he says he then realised she was the woman for him. They married in 1964 at St Patrick's Church in Dudley Road, Winson Green and now, both aged 73, they are celebrating their golden wedding anniversary.

They moved to Stonnall in Staffordshire – where they still live now – when Mr Nolan got a job at Rugeley Power Station in the coal plant, having previously worked at IMI in Aston. They have two daughters Marian, aged 45 and Karen, 46, and grandchildren Bradley and Ellie, 18, Alice, 16 and Aislinn, nine.

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**Our next evening starts at 6pm on
11th November 2014 at Village Hotel,
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Adoption in the Black Country has recently announced its expansion, with a new partner to their consortium, taking members up to five. Adoption Focus, rated by OFSTED as Outstanding joined the Consortium in October. This is a highly significant change for Adoption in the Black Country and will see them move from a collaboration of 4 Local Authorities which operate within a sub region of the West Midlands, to a larger West Midlands wide operator and recruiter of adopters.

The expansion means even better services for our local adopters with wider access to excellent support services.

Anna Sharkey, CEO, Adoption Focus said: "This partnership is an excellent development for adopters across the



region which will increase opportunities for children in need. Working across different sectors will utilise the considerable skills and expertise of all staff involved in adoption"

The next event for the consortiums new member will be at The Village Hotel, Castlegate Drive, Dudley, DY1 4TB on 11th November (6pm start).

For more information see adoptionblackcountry.co.uk or call 0800 073 0597

Freephone 0800 073 0597

www.adoptionblackcountry.co.uk
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adoption
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40-year-old club looking to net some new recruits

A SPORTS club celebrating its 40th anniversary this year is looking to the swell its ranks.

Cheslyn Hay Table Tennis Club is looking for new recruits, both young and old, and staged an open day last weekend to get people involved in the sport.

The club was founded in 1974 and games were then played at the Working Men's Club in High Street, Cheslyn Hay. It has since moved to the Salem Church in High Street.

Club secretary John Quinn, one of the founding members, said: "When we first started out there were only about 12 players.

"We had one room with one table at the working men's club. The club then moved to the Salem Church in 1991. The room was full of junk. We had to clear it all out and redecorate it. Now we've got five tables and 27 members."

The club plays its games in the Walsall and Wolverhampton table tennis leagues on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Sponsor

The oldest playing member is Mike Hudson, aged 78 and the youngest is Sam Tomkinson, 12. Meanwhile Ted Spriggs, 87, who is an honorary member of the club, played up to the age of 82.

Mr Quinn said the club was always looking for new players to join.

"We are looking for new players," he said. "That's the idea behind the club day. It's all about getting people playing table tennis as well as getting youngsters to be more active. We're also keen on attracting a new sponsor. That way we can develop the club and get even bigger," he said.

"We've got a great social calendar as well and we often raise money for charities by putting on events." The club plays its matches on Mondays and Tuesdays.

For details or anyone interested in sponsoring the club, call Mr Quinn on 07846 496715.



Vice chairman Barry Merrett and club secretary John Quinn with members

Village call over facilities

A PETITION calling on health chiefs to increase the use of facilities in Pelsall has attracted almost 670 supporters. Councillor Marco Longhi launched a campaign calling for the opening hours of NHS services at Pelsall Village Centre in High Street to be extended after calls from residents.

There is an online petition and signature sheets are being circulated. There are hopes to extend the amount of services currently available at the £4 million centre, which includes a GP

surgery, pharmacy, health officers and treatment rooms that are only available weekdays during working hours.

Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) the health body that overlooks NHS services in the borough is now considering plans to provide extra services after chief chairman Dr Amrik Gill and chief executive Salma Ali met Councillor Longhi to discuss the issues. People can view the online petition through the www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/dr-amrik-gill-page.

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Billy is carried by teammates after beat inLeicester City 3-1 in the FA Cup Final



The players leave the field after the Honved game



Roy Swinbourne heads home to equalise for Wolves against Honvéd

Advert led Billy to a glorious career for Wolves and England

IT was an advertisement in the Express & Star that was to change the life of Billy Wright.

It set him on the path to becoming one of the greatest footballers in the history of the game in England.

Placed in 1938, it invited schoolboys for trials with Wolverhampton Wanderers. Under the inspired leadership of Major Frank Buckley, Wolves were on the up.

That season, 1937-38, they had won the First Division Championship – a feat that they were to equal the next year – and it would be a wonderful opportunity for any youngster who was good enough to be taken on by the club.

It was an opportunity recognised by Norman Simpson, Billy's teacher at Madeley Senior School. He spotted the advert and urged the talented youngster from Ironbridge in Shropshire to respond.

When Billy reached Molineux, disappointment met him. Major Buckley said he was too small to make the grade, but for some

MEMORY LANE

reason 20 minutes later this imposing man changed his mind and decided to give Billy chance by signing him as an apprentice on an eight-month trial.

That was all that Billy needed. Just 14-years old, he made his debut for Wolves in a B team, but he was not to stay a second stringer for long. A year later, he was chosen for the first team and aged 17, Billy signed as a professional but it was during the Second World War, and competitive football was limited – especially at Wolves.

On September 1, 1946, League football returned to England. The rain pelted down but it failed to dampen the keenness of spectators who had not seen a league match for six years.

Two years later, former captain Stan Cullis took charge as manager, and Billy Wright replaced him as leader on the field. Within a year, the club were runners-up

in the League and winners of the FA Cup for the first time in 41 years. The FA Cup triumph in 1949 came in a 3-1 victory over Leicester City at Wembley. That and finishing runners-up in the League were tremendous achievements by Cullis, who would go on to develop a memorable Wolves side.

The next few seasons were the most exciting in the history of the club. The team included other great names such as Bert Williams, Peter Broadbent, Johnny Hancock, and Ron Flowers.

In 1954 they won the League championship for the first time in the club's history, and became champions again in 1958 and 1959. This success was matched by outstanding performances against the best sides in Europe, where they defeated Honvéd, the Hungarian champions, 3-2 in one of the most exciting and exhilarating games of football ever seen in England. His outstanding performances led to an England call-up, and in 1948 he was made captain. Remarkably, he led the team 90 times – an all-time record that he shared with Bobby

Moore – and he was the first football player in the world to earn 100 caps.

Originally a wing-half, in 1954 Billy was made centre-half at the World Cup in Sweden by the manager, Walter Winterbottom.

Billy retired as a player in 1959. In all, he played 541 games for Wolves and 105 for England – which included a record run of 70 consecutive appearances. He went on to management and then became a television pundit and Head of Sport for ATV and Central Television.

Takeover

In 1990 he joined the board at Wolves as part of the takeover by Sir Jack Hayward and later had a stand named after him. Billy died in 1994. Two years later, a statue of him was erected in his honour outside Molineux, the home of his beloved Wolves.

Unequalled for his dedication, determination, loyalty, decency, consistency and unselfishness, Billy was a true Englishman. Walter Winterbottom got it right when he said that Billy Wright 'had a heart of oak'.



Hero's farewell – Billy's last match for Wolves in 1959

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Crowning glory for colourful celebration



Part of the Diwali celebrations were Hetal Patel, aged seven, and Devina Patel, eight, who made crowns to celebrate

THERE was dancing, singing and music as thousands of people attended a Diwali celebration at New Art Gallery Walsall. Around 100 performers of all ages took part in the festival of light, transforming the foyer of the venue.

There were classic Bollywood performances, henna painting and lantern-making as part of the celebration on Saturday. Around 2,000 people gathered in Gallery Square for the annual event with those taking part ranging from groups to individuals, aged from under-10s to adults.

Head of education at the gallery, Zoe Renilson, said the day had been well attended and been enjoyable. "It was a phenomenal day. We had some brilliant girls, who dressed up and danced brilliantly in unison. There was lots of dance and lots of singing. It has been a huge success."

The line up included world renowned Khatak Dancers, special Gujarati performance, classical Indian dance and percussionist. Surjit Rai, who helped to organise the said the aim was to show the depth of talent and create scenes of colour and light.

Talks teed up on golf centre bid for village

REVISED plans for a proposed £2m golf and leisure centre will be discussed this week before going on show to the public.

Essington Golf Club has been in the planning pipeline since 2008 and will see 80 acres of land transformed and 50 jobs created. The plans will be discussed by the village's parish council chairman and developers.

The summit takes place at the Hollybush Garden Centre, Warstone Road, Cheslyn Hay, tomorrow, Friday.

Councillor David Cliff said he will have have a chance to view the proposals and air any concerns residents have raised with him before the plans are formally submitted to the parish council at their next public meeting.

Previous proposals were refused after residents complained over the possibility of hotel rooms on the site.

Councillor Cliff said: "I am meeting with the developers this week to discuss the proposal. Essington Parish Council will have sight of the plans at the next full meeting in November, before they go on general display and to consultation at Essington Community Centre. This is especially im-

by Jordan Harris

portant so we can see what level of support the project has amongst the public.

"The investment is there and it will create jobs for local people, which is always a positive for the area."

The leisure centre is set to include a swimming pool, a bar and gym facilities and will be open for members of the general public as well as members.

Work on expanding Essington Golf Club started six years ago but was delayed because of the downturn in the building trade. More than 50 residents went along to an open session for the public in August to see how work was progressing.

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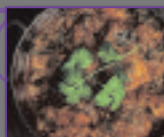
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A changing skyline with college girders going up

WALSALL'S skyline is rapidly changing as building work gathers pace on the town college's £11 million business and sports hub.

The landscape on Walsall's northern ring road is changing as the facility starts to take shape ahead of its opening next September.

A yellow crane lifted the first giant steel girder into place last week and since then further deliveries of steel work have been made.

The front structure of the three-storey new build has now emerged from the foundations as workers press ahead with the ambitious plans.

The 39,000 sq ft development is located adjacent to Walsall College's main £64 million Wisemore Campus, on Littleton Street West.

It also sits next to another multi-million pound development which is currently under construction; as work continues on the new pharmacy headquarters for Jhoots Pharmacy Group.

Fantastic

The developments form part of Walsall Council's long-term £400 million Gigaport vision, which is creating thousands of jobs along the ring road corridor through sports provision, business and office expansions.

Deb Rajania, the college's director of operations and resources, said: "After so much hard work behind-the-scenes, it is fantastic to finally see the Walsall Business and Sports Hub rising from the ground and it is beginning to take shape very quickly now."

"This is such an exciting time for Walsall College and the town in general."

"This new Hub will go a long way to helping create a thriving and active economy for all."

Walsall Council regeneration boss Councillor Mohammad Nazir said: "The Hub is going to be a unique venue which will help start-up businesses and enterprise projects to



On the site Deb Rajania director of operations and resources at the college, Brian Lowe the chairman of governors, Cllr Mohammad Nazir the deputy leader and Kevin Miners the project manager

thrive and has the potential to create scores of jobs within the Gigaport development.

"It's fascinating to see this multi-million pound investment take shape in the heart of Walsall."

It was recently announced that around 10 Walsall College students and apprentices will be offered the chance to work alongside Interserve Construction as the hub starts to take shape.

Once completed, it will house a business incubation centre for start-up businesses, sports hall with badminton courts, dance and fitness studios, sports training and injury clinic as well as a fine dining restaurant.

Councillor Nazir added: "While it will undoubtedly bring huge benefits to the business community, local people will also profit by being able to become more involved in sport and physical activity."

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"Supportive, caring sixth form staff. Well done" - (Parent)

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"The school has a very good balance between educating professionally and personally. Personal health and character development are considered just as important as achieving exam success." - (Parent)



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Residents get boost of £450k

MONEY advisers at a housing association believe they have helped residents gain more than £450,000 in income over the last year.

Walsall Housing Group managed 19,000 homes across the borough and say 1,500 customers gained tailored money advice. This led to an average of £300 each in extra income through either in debt relief or help with unclaimed benefits.

Rob Gilham, corporate director of operations at Walsall Housing Association, said: "We are delighted to have helped so many customers with their finances. We still live in extremely challenging economic circumstances."

"A key part of our role is to support our customers to help keep them in their homes and just generally make it easier to cope with any financial challenges."

Bus firm in route move

A BUS service that was funded by a councillor is being taken on by a transport firm for a trial run.

Walsall Councillor Richard Worrall sponsored the 35A route between the town centre, Rushall, and Aldridge on Sundays. Arriva Midlands has agreed to fund the service but warns it could withdraw it if not enough people use it.

Councillor Worrall said: "I feel they have done me and my constituents a big favour."

FOCUS ON ALDRIDGE

Charges on way as free car parks may be lost in village

SHOPPERS in Aldridge face having to pay parking fees for the first time at two car parks in the village, as the council looks to rake in up to £100,000.

Charges will be introduced for the first time in areas across Walsall and apart from Aldridge fees will come in at Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall under new proposals.

By Craig Hughes

Cash-strapped Walsall Council is planning to introduce a £1 charge for four hours on around 800 spaces as part of its budget for 2015/16. There will be five locations in Willenhall, three in Bloxwich, Brownhills and Darlaston and the two in Aldridge which would be subject to pay and display.

The council currently provides 2,000 free long-stay spaces spread across the five areas. Transport bosses say money generated will be invested in maintaining and cleaning car parks.

But it has led to fears from traders that shoppers could turn their backs on the shopping centres, causing traders to lose income.

In Willenhall, the introduction of pay and display is proposed in the likes of Gomer Street, Hall Street and Wolverhampton Street.

Bharat Parmar, of Elegant Dry Cleaners in Mar-

ket Place, Willenhall, said: "It should be free really and I think it could affect the town. You just don't want to increase anything to stop people coming into the town."

"People do come from quite away. They always ask where you can park and charging could upset quite a few people. I think most of the shopkeepers will be against it."

A report to the council states: "The introduction of car park charges may have an adverse impact on the local economies of the district centres if as a result customers visit on a less frequent basis. Unless a sustainable funding stream is established to offset the ongoing cost of provision of the car parking facilities, their longer term viability may be in question."



Stuart Bissell, from Linley Wood Road, Aldridge with the leg braces and crutches he found

Cyclist in discovery near canal

CRUTCHES and leg braces belonging to a child were found dumped on a canal towpath in Aldridge. An appeal has now been launched to track down who the walking aids belong to. Keen cyclist Stewart Bissell, aged 71, found the three crutches and leg braces worth hundreds of pounds.

They were on the towpath along Rushall Canal, off Brickyard Road, where Mr Bissell regularly cycles towards Brownhills. After being alerted to them being dumped he collected them and took them to the police. He was asked to keep hold of them for a month to see if they are claimed.

The grandfather-of-two said: "It is definitely a child who has been using these. They had been dumped on top of some old carpet. I don't think they had been there long." The owners can call Mr Bissell on 07521 972951.

Halloween run raises hundreds

STUDENTS at a Walsall school raised more than £200 for Birmingham Children's Hospital by dressing up in Halloween outfits during a sponsored spooky run.

Sixth formers at Barr Beacon School, Aldridge, donned scary costumes while running or walking several laps of the school field. The event raised more than £225 for the children's hospital.

Assistant head Christabel Harper said: "Our student fundraising committee thought that a spooky stroll was a more imaginative way of raising money than the usual things schools do - like non-uniform days. Sixth formers have raised a lot of money for Birmingham Children's Hospital over the years because they are such a deserving organisation."

Councillor to step down

ONE of the youngest councillors to be elected in Walsall is to stand down next year. Aldridge and Walsall Wood councillor Mike Flower has represented the ward for nine years after being voted in aged 22.

The ex-cabinet member said he will not stand for re-election in May as he wanted to spend time with his family. He said: "To be given the chance at such a young age is something I will always deeply appreciate."

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MNA Media

New base to groom for improvement



Neil and Lisa Davis, who have opened new hair salon Tobias, based in Station Road, specialising in male grooming BARBER shops used to be all about a quick short back and sides on a Friday night for a few quid.

But now the rising popularity of male grooming has seen business boom for one hairdresser in Walsall who has opened a second shop to cope with demand.

Tobias has been a fixture of Walsall town centre in Bridge Street for 24 years – and now owner Neil Davis has taken on a second larger unit in Station Street.

Mr Davis and his wife Lisa, who manages the shops, are bringing in cut-throat razor shaves, eyebrow trims and even manicures as men emulate celebrities like David Beckham. Now 'gentleman's grooming' outlets are popping up across the country and the craze has even spread to the Black Country.

The new shop in Station Street – which was opened by Walsall Mayor Councillor Pete Smith – has a traditional barbers' design as Mrs Davis said customers feel less intimidated in surroundings they are familiar with.

Police will look again at probe complaint

THE police watchdog has told West Midlands Police to reconsider a complaint alleging the force made failings in its investigation of a man who died after being hit by a motorbike.

Father-of-five Harbans Lal was knocked down as he crossed the road in Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston, in December 2010. He had lived in Heathfield Lane, and suffered shock and died after his right lower leg was severed.

The 61-year-old also suffered fractures, bruises and abrasions. Mr Lal's daughter Jasvinder Devi has alleged that West Midlands Police failed to conduct a fair and proportionate investigation.

Ms Devi claimed she was also lied to on a series of matters and was refused access to the police case file. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has now ruled that the police force had investigated a general complaint of hers regarding the investigation, but not addressed specific points.

A letter to Ms Devi from the IPCC said the investigation report also provided 'no detail, reason or rationale' for how the investigating officer arrived at the decision

By Lisa O'Brien

not to uphold the complaint.

In the letter, casework manager for the IPCC, Sarah Turner said: "I have directed that West Midlands Police re-investigate your complaints; it is mandatory for West Midlands Police to comply with this direction."

At Mr Lal's inquest, the motorcyclist said he had come out in front of him at the last second and he no chance to do anything.

Coroner Robin Balmain ruled it was an accident that it had happened due to a combination of the motorcyclist not taking 'appropriate precautions' and Mr Lal not taking 'sufficient care'.

Ms Devi, of Kingston upon Thames, said she hoped she would now get answers.

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Actona Zone corner sofas (with storage).....	£1099	£627	Solid ash table & 4 chairs.....	£1219	£247
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Buoyant Minstrel 3 seater sofa, snuggler & footstool.....	£1979	£726	G-Plan - assorted ex-display stock.....		SAVE 50%
Celebrity lift & rise power recliners - ex-display stock immediate delivery.....		SAVE 50%	FLOORING	WAS	NOW
			Rugs - assorted designs, sizes and colours.....		FROM £25
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CHOICE



Huw Edwards

Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2014 (BBC1, 9.10pm)

It's time to pay tribute to the brave men who fought in the two world wars and more recent conflicts. Of course, with this year marking the centenary of the First World War, the festivities are all the more significant. Tonight, Huw Edwards hosts this annual event from the Royal Albert Hall, which sees the Queen and other members of the royal family in attendance. Joss Stone, the cast of War Horse and D-Day veteran Jim Radford perform alongside the Massed Bands of the Household Division, and the bands of HM Royal Marines and Queen's Colour Squadron. There will also be a two-minute silence, with thousands of poppy petals falling from the venue's ceiling.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.45** The Lord Mayor's Show 2014. **12.20** BBC News: Weather. **12.20** Football Focus. **1.10** Rugby League: Four Nations Highlights. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union: Wales v Australia (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News: Weather. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities Winter Special.

6.30 **Strictly Come Dancing.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present another round of dancing action as the twinkle-toed celebrities compete to avoid ending up in the bottom two – and to add to the tension, the losing pair will miss out on performing at the world-famous Blackpool Tower Ballroom next week. Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcy Bussell are the ones to impress as the hopefuls perform a mixture of routines. The results are tomorrow at 7.45pm.

8.00 **Doctor Who.** Part two of two. As Cybermen roam the streets of London, old friends unite in the battle against evil. But the Doctor soon realises that sacrifices must be made. Last in the series.

9.00 **The National Lottery Live.** Gaby Roslin reveals the numbers for the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.10 **Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2014.** Huw Edwards presents coverage of the annual event from the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family. Joss Stone, the cast of War Horse and D-Day veteran Jim Radford perform alongside the Massed Bands of the Household Division, and the bands of HM Royal Marines and the Queen's Colour Squadron. Together they pay tribute to the victims of conflict, from the First World War to the present day, in a festival that also includes the traditional two-minute silence as thousands of poppy petals fall from the venue's ceiling.

10.45 BBC News: Weather.

11.00 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Liverpool v Chelsea at Anfield and Manchester United v Crystal Palace at Old Trafford; National Lottery Update.

12.20 The Football League Show. **1.00** Film: Steel. (2002) **2.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Animal Park. (R) **6.30** Rugby League: Four Nations. **9.20** The Indestructible Warship, Tanzania – World War 1, Beyond the Trenches. **9.25** The Private Life of Plants. (R) **10.15** Map Man. (R) **10.45** James Martin: Home Comforts. **11.15** Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. (R) **12.15** Astaire and Rogers Sing George and Ira Gershwin. (R) **12.30** Film: That's Entertainment III. (1994) **2.20** Film: Easter Parade. (1948) **4.00** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Live International Rugby Union: Scotland v Argentina (Kick-off 5.30pm).

7.30 **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring and the platoon welcome the first American troops to Walmington-on-Sea, but Anglo-US relations become strained. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

8.00 **The Great War – An Elegy: A Culture Show Special.** In a major new BBC commission, poet Simon Armitage has written poems about the First World War that form the centre of this documentary. He visits French beaches, German POW camps, so-called "thankful" villages and remote corners of the Highlands as he considers the deaths of more than 700,000 British soldiers in the conflict, telling seven real-life war stories – each of which culminates in a poem inspired by the writer's research. Featuring readings by both Armitage himself and relatives of those whose tales he brings to life.

9.00 **Formula 1: The Brazilian Grand Prix – Qualifying.** Action from Interlagos. Suzi Perry presents the battle for pole at Interlagos in Sao Paulo, ahead of the 18th and penultimate round of the season. Sebastian Vettel was the fastest qualifier here last year, and it came as little surprise to see the Red Bull driver go on to dominate the race.

10.30 **QI XL.** Extended edition. The Rev Richard Coles, Sara Pascoe, Bill Bailey and Alan Davies try to answer host Stephen Fry's questions on L-themed larks – a "Liblabble", as he calls it.

11.15 **TOTP2.** Mark Radcliffe introduces performances by KC and the Sunshine Band, Everything but the Girl, the Jam, Robert Palmer, Neneh Cherry, Jilted John and Lisa Hannigan. (R)

12.15 Film: Walkabout. (1971) **1.50** Film: Harlequin. (1980) **3.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** The Munch Box. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.25** Storage Heisters. (R) **12.30** Surprise Surprise. (R) **1.30** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.15** Doc Martin. (R) **3.20** Keep It in the Family. (R) **4.20** Film: Evan Almighty. (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Carell.

6.05 **Regional Programme:** Weather.

6.15 **ITV News:** Weather.

6.30 **New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a selection of videos filmed by viewers, featuring memorable pregnancy reactions, a dog ruining a living room, and a grandmother performing a striptease.

7.00 **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Comedian Sanjeev Bhaskar. Commonwealth sprinting gold medalist Libby Clegg, singer Alexandra Burke and cricket commentator Henry Blofeld play for charity. Bradley Walsh hosts.

8.00 **The X Factor.** The would-be chart stars perform hits from the back catalogues of popular groups for Giriband v Boyband week, and with Mel B and Cheryl Fernandez-Versini sitting at the judges' desk, anyone choosing songs by the Spice Girls or Girls Aloud had better be good. As the live studio rounds reach the halfway point, the pressure is mounting and there are sure to be fiery disagreements on the panel. Dermot O'Leary will be on hand to keep a cool head. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.

9.45 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host chats to Stanley Tucci and Natalie Dormer, who star in The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1, comedian Frank Skinner, and singer Lily Allen, who also provides the music.

10.45 **ITV News:** Weather.

11.05 **Film: The Kingdom.** (2007) Thriller, starring Jamie Foxx and Jennifer Garner.

1.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.10** ITV NightScreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.30 The Grid. **7.00** Outrun the Sun. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Doncaster and Wincanton. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 **Come Dine with Me.** Julia Smith hosts the final party in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, hiring two waiters to give the evening a touch of class, before the week's winner is announced. (R)

6.35 **Channel 4 News.**

7.05 **Speed with Guy Martin.** The motorcycle racer heads to Colorado, where he hopes to win one of America's oldest races, the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb, which ends more than 13,000ft above sea level. (R)

8.00 **Walking Through History: Norman Conquest of Pembrokeshire.** Tony Robinson heads to the south-west corner of Wales and one of Britain's finest coastal paths to find out why Pembrokeshire feels so English, even though it's more than 100 miles from the border. With its numerous castles and a fine cathedral, there are sure signs the Normans stamped their mark over the area. Tony's four-day walk traces the story of their conquest of the county, which he discovers was very different from the knockout victory at Hastings, involving a long, fiercely fought struggle.

9.00 **Film: The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.** (2011) Premiere. Seven English pensioners looking for a fresh start are drawn to an advert for a hotel in the Indian city of Jaipur, and plan to spend their retirement there. They arrive to find the building dilapidated but are won over by the enthusiastic young manager, and each embarks on their own adventures in the city. Comedy drama, starring Judy Dench.

11.25 **Film: On the Road.** (2012) Premiere. Drama based on Jack Kerouac's novel, with Sam Riley and Garrett Hedlund.

2.00 Hollyoaks. (R) **4.05** Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun. (R) **11.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **12.15** Alex Polizzi's Secret Italy. (R) **1.20** Film: The Santa Suit. (2010) Comedy, starring Kevin Sorbo. **3.00** Film: An Old Fashioned Christmas. (2010) A wealthy woman visits an Irish earl in the hope he can help boost her granddaughter's literary career. Period drama sequel, starring Jacqueline Bisset and Catherine Steadman. **4.45** Film: Gifts for Christmas. (2010) Christmas drama, starring Maria Sokoloff and Mark Webber.

6.25 **Film: The Christmas Heart.** (2012) The people of a close-knit neighbourhood rally round when a local boy needs a heart transplant. A suitable donor organ is found just before Christmas and is transported to the hospital by plane, but an unexpected storm jeopardises its chances of being delivered on time. Drama, starring Teri Polo and Ty Wood.

8.05 **Film: The Case for Christmas.** (2011) Premiere. A greedy business mogul is still bitter about not receiving the presents he wanted as a child, so decides to sue Santa Claus. Needing legal representation, the jolly old man turns to a lawyer desperately trying to balance his career and his responsibilities as a father. Festive comedy, starring Dean Cain, Rachel Blanchard and George Buza.

9.55 **5 News Weekend.**

10.00 **Live Boxing: The MaxiNutrition Knockout.** Coverage of the final of the light heavyweight tournament from Glow in the Bluewater Shopping Centre in Kent, featuring Bob Aisale v Travis Dickinson.

12.00 **Gotham.** Gordon and Bullock go in search of a hitman targeting council members, seemingly in an attempt to sway a vote on the development plans for the Arkham district. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** The Gadget Show. The team investigates technological applications of exoskeletons, with Jon Bentley meeting Claire Lomas, who was the first paraplegic to walk the London Marathon in a robotic suit. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. Ann Maurice and Alistair Appleton look back over highlights of the series, including a two-bedroom room that smelt of dogs and was full of dolls. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 World's Craziest Fools **7.30** International Rugby Union **8.30** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **9.00** Sherlock **10.30** Bad Education **11.00** Family Guy **1.15** Life Is Toff **1.45** Sweat the Small Stuff **2.15** The Revolution Will Be Televised **2.45** Snow, Sex and Suspicious Parents **3.45** In Deep **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **8.00** Maps: Power, Plunder and Possession **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.40** Top of the Pops: 1979 **11.10** Timeshift: Mods, Rockers and Bank Holiday Mayhem **12.10** Top of the Pops: The Story of 1978 **1.00** Country at the BBC **2.00** Lionel Richie – Dancing on the Ceiling **3.00** Maps: Power, Plunder and Possession **4.00** Close

ITV2
12.00 Film: Honey (2003) **2.00** Film: The Little Vampire (2000) **3.50** You've Been Framed! **4.50** You've Been Framed: The Next Generation! **5.50** Film: Valiant (2005) **7.25** Film: Twister (1996) **9.45** The Xtra Factor **10.45** Celebrity Juice: Mubusted Special **11.35** Tricked: More Favourite Tricks **12.35** The X Factor **2.10** Dads **2.30** Rizzle Kicks – The Hot Desk **2.40** Teleshopping

ITV3
1.10 Goodnight Mister Tom **3.20** Film: The Little Vampire (2000) **5.50** Housewife, 49 **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** A Touch of Frost **12.40** Bombs Girls **1.35** World Kitchen **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.40 Kojak **12.45** Live Snooker. **5.15** Highway Patrol **5.40** Ronnie O'Sullivan: Sports Life Stories **6.45** Live Snooker. **11.15** Film: Horsemen of the Apocalypse (2009) **1.10** The Professionals **2.10** Cheers **2.40** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
4.45 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: The Hole (2009) **11.00** The Lovebetweeners **12.05** How I Met Your Mother **1.05** Rules of Engagement **2.00** The Cleveland Show **3.30** Charmed **4.15** Smallville **Film4**

1.00 The Death and Life of Charlie St. Cloud (2010) **2.55** I Wanna Hold Your Hand (1978) **4.50** Only You (1994) **7.00** Stormbreaker (2006) **9.00** Shooter (2007) **11.25** From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) **1.35** Machete (2010) **3.45** Close

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CHOICE



Sue Perkins

The Mekong River with Sue Perkins (BBC2, 8pm)

It must be nice being a celeb. If they want a holiday, they don't need a travel agent – they can simply check in with a TV network instead, who are more than likely to pack them off to some exotic, far-flung destination. Mind you, once there they often earn their keep. This latest star-based travelogue sees comedian and Bake Off host Sue jet off to Southeast Asia, where she explores the lives of people who live on the banks of its longest river. She begins in Vietnam, where she sells noodles and farms prawns, before taking a sombre trip into Cambodia, to talk to one of the survivors of Pol Pot's genocide. There's also a look at how a whole village pins its survival on a single freshwater lake.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.** **10.25 Remembrance Sunday.** The Cenotaph. **12.25 Sunday Politics.** **1.40 BBC News.** Weather. **1.55 FA Cup Final Score.** **4.20 Songs of Praise.** **5.00 Life Story.** (R) **6.00 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

6.30 Countryfile. In an extended programme for Remembrance Sunday, Matt Baker visits a subterranean network carved out by Allied troops in the chalk quarries of Arras, Ellie Harrison reveals the iron harvest of bombs still unearthed by farmers today and Tom Heap retraces his great-uncle's journey from university to the trenches. John Craven discovers how tractors were adapted to make the world's first tanks and Adam Hanson finds out how man's best friend became his greatest ally when dogs were trained for frontline duties by the British Army. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.45 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal who is in the dance-off, with the losers missing out on the chance to perform at Blackpool Tower Ballroom. Plus, Katherine Jenkins performs.

8.30 Formula 1: The Brazilian Grand Prix. Suzi Perry presents the key moments from Interlagos in Sao Paulo, where the 18th and penultimate round of the season took place. Sebastian Vettel comfortably won the race here last year, but the reigning world champion has endured a difficult campaign and only has one further race before he leaves Red Bull for Ferrari. Commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard, and analysis by Eddie Jordan.

10.00 BBC News: Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman and guests review the latest Premier League action, including Sunderland v Everton and Swansea City v Arsenal.

11.50 The Apprentice. Alan Sugar challenges the teams to organise coach tours, giving them two days to persuade punters to part with their cash and take day trips to tourist attractions outside London. (R)

12.50 Film: Lynelle. (2008) **2.20 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **2.25 BBC News.**

BBC2

9.00 The Football League Show. (R) **9.40 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.10 Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure.** (R) **12.10 The A to Z of TV Cooking.** (R) **12.15 MOTD2 Extra.** **1.00 International Rugby Union.** **2.00 Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals.** The afternoon session on day one from the O2 in London. **5.00 Flog It! Trade Secrets.** **5.30 Remembrance Sunday:** The Cenotaph.

6.30 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. Manish Bhasin presents action from the latest first-round matches, as the non-league sides aimed to make a name for themselves and book a place in the second round.

8.00 The Mekong River with Sue Perkins. New series. The comedienne and Great British Bake Off presenter embarks on a 3,000-mile journey along the Southeast Asian river, exploring lives and landscapes on the point of dramatic change. She begins in Vietnam, where she meets traditional river people caught up in a new capitalist revolution, before trying her hand as a noodle saleswoman and prawn farmer. Continuing to Cambodia, she is moved by the tale of a survivor of Pol Pot's genocide, before bonding with the residents of the village of Kuampong Pluk, whose survival depends on the bounty of Tonle Sap, the largest freshwater lake in Asia.

9.00 Police Under Pressure. Documentary following officers in Sheffield as they investigate two separate incidents of missing girls, both victims of grooming and sexual abuse.

10.00 Rugby League: Four Nations Highlights. New Zealand v England and Australia v Samoa. Action from the final round-robin matches at the Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin, New Zealand, and WIN Stadium in Wollongong, Australia.

11.00 Russell Howard's Good News. The comedian offers his perspective on stories dominating the media, whether on television, online or in print, and he is joined by a guest with an amazing tale to tell. (R)

11.30 Film: Alpha Dog. (2006) Fact-based crime drama. Starring Emile Hirsch.

1.20 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.20 Holby City.** (R) **3.15 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **7.05 Canimals.** (R) **7.10 Canimals.** (R) **7.20 Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **7.25 Sooty.** (R) **7.35 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) **7.50 Ultimate Spider-Man.** **8.15 Horrid Henry.** **8.30 Big Time Rush.** **9.00 The Aquabats! Super Show!** (R) **9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal.** (R) **10.25 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.25 ITV News: Weather.** **11.35 Film: Carry On Screaming.** (1966) **1.25 All Star Family Fortunes.** (R) **2.15 The Unforgettable Les Dawson.** (R) **2.45 The X Factor.** (R) **4.30 Downtown Abbey.** (R) **5.35 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** (R) **6.30 Regional Programme:** Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Keep It in the Family. Former X Factor stars Alexandra Burke, Joe McEllderry, Ryan Clark, Stacey Solomon, Jedward and Ruth Lorenzo help contestants win big prizes. Bradley Walsh hosts.

8.00 The X Factor Results. Dermot O'Leary reveals who is safe and who has scored the lowest number of votes, and there are performances by some of the biggest names in the charts.

9.00 Downtown Abbey. Preparations are under way for Rose's wedding, but family tensions on both sides threaten to derail proceedings. Edith's arrangement with Marigold is happily working out, but how long can she and Cora conceal the truth from Robert? Denker reveals an unexpected side to her personality, which causes trouble for more than one of the servants. With the war memorial due to be unveiled, Mrs Patmore is still upset, but Robert has something up his sleeve. Branson comes to a heart-wrenching decision, and the storm clouds that have been gathering over Anna and Bates finally burst. Last in the series.

10.30 ITV News: Weather.

10.45 Broadroom. Part one of two. The lives of patients inside Berkshire's high-security psychiatric hospital, which is home to some of the nation's most dangerous men. (R)

11.45 LVL: Cup Rugby Union. Highlights of the second round of pool matches in this season's competition.

12.40 The Store. **2.30 Motorsport UK.** **3.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **4.05 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.45 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **7.35 FIM Superbike World Championship.** **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Frasier.** (R) **9.00 Jamie's Comfort Food.** (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch.** **12.35 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** (R) **1.35 The Big Bang Theory.** **2.05 The Big Bang Theory.** **2.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **3.00 Film: Addams Family Values.** (1993) Comedy sequel, starring Anjelica Huston and Raul Julia. **5.00 Channel 4 News.** **5.30 American Football Live.** Miami Dolphins vs Dallas Cowboys (Kick-off 6.00pm).

8.00 Speed with Guy Martin. The motorcycle racer leaves his comfort zone as he attempts to set a world speed record for a hovercraft. These machines are notoriously difficult to control, so to learn the basic skills needed he's put through his paces by Royal Marines in a military training operation. To achieve his goal, Guy will need to stay over 86mph for a kilometre, but at these speeds, because of the hovercraft's inherent instability, even the most experienced pilots can lose control – and the worsening weather makes things that much more challenging.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie tries to earn the trust of a frightened asset, Quinn and Fara stake out a new suspect and Saul catches a break when he spots a familiar face on his way out of town. CIA drama, starring Claire Danes, Rupert Friend, Nazanin Boniadi and Mandy Patinkin.

10.05 Film: Contraband. (2012) Premiere. A reformed international smuggler must return to his old line of work to save his family from a ruthless drug lord. Crime thriller, with Mark Wahlberg and Kate Beckinsale.

12.15 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. Derren Brown talks about his 2015 live tour. Sue Perkins reveals details of her new documentary series, and ventriloquist Nina Conti drops in ahead of her new DVD release. (R) **1.10 American Football Live.** Green Bay Packers v Chicago Bears (Kick-off 1.30pm). Coverage of the week 10 clash from Lambeau Field, where the NFC North rivals face each other. **4.45 The Grid.** Including a look at Project Brabham. (R) **5.15 Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** Revamping the kitchen and dining room of a home in Kent. (R) **5.35 Countdown.** Sian Williams is in Dictionary Corner. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **6.15 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **6.30 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures.** (R) **6.55 Seaside Antics.** **6.40 The Mr Men Show.** (R) **6.55 Chloe's Closet.** (R) **7.05 Olly the Little White Van.** (R) **7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **7.25 Make Way for Noddy.** (R) **7.35 Paw Patrol.** **7.50 Little Princess.** (R) **8.05 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.** (R) **8.20 Wanda and the Alien.** **8.30 Zack and Quack.** **8.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.00 Jelly Jamm.** (R) **9.20 LazyTown.** (R) **9.45 Pip Ahoy!** (R) **10.00 Milkshake! Monkey.** (R) **10.05 Mr Men.** (R) **10.20 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **10.55 5 News Special: Remembrance Sunday 2014.** **11.05 Access.** **11.15 Criminals: Caught on Camera.** (R) **11.40 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.40 Film: Getting Even with Dad.** (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin and Ted Danson. **2.50 Film: Cats & Dogs.** (2001) Comedy, starring Jeff Goldblum. **4.30 Film: The Polar Express.** (2004) Animated adventure, with the voice of Tom Hanks.

6.20 5 News Weekend.

6.25 Film: Superman. (1978) A fledgling superhero crash-lands on Earth after evacuation from his home planet and is taken in by an elderly couple who raise him as their own. But with adolescence comes a greater understanding of his superhero powers, leading to his rebirth as a crusader for justice and defender of the American way of life. Comic-strip adventure, with Christopher Reeve. Edited for language, flashing images and product placement.

9.00 The MTV EMA 2014 from Glasgow. Nicki Minaj presents the Europe Music Awards from the Hydro in Glasgow, featuring performances by the host, as well as Enrique Iglesias, Ed Sheeran, Calvin Harris and Ariana Grande. Katy Perry leads the nominations and is up for seven awards, with Ariana Grande shortlisted for six and 5 Seconds of Summer and Pharrell Williams having five each.

11.00 Most Shocking Moments in Pop. A countdown of outrageous events and scandals from the pop world, including Miley Cyrus's performance at the 2013 VMAs and Bradley Spears shaving her head. (R)

1.50 SuperCasino. **3.10 Benidorm ER.** (R) **4.00 House Doctor.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Doctor Who: The Ultimate Guide. **7.15 Doctor Who: 8.15 Film: Shanghai Knights** (2003) **10.00 Family Guy** **10.45 Life Is Toff** **11.15 American Dad!** **12.00 Sweat the Small Stuff** **12.30 The Revolution Will Be Televised** **1.00 Snow, Sex and Suspicious Parents** **2.00 Life Is Toff** **2.30 People Like Us** **3.30 Life Is Toff** **4.00 Close**

BBC Four

7.00 The Great War **8.20 West Coast Otters** **8.30 Sounds of the 70s** **2 New Wave – Hit Me with Your Rhythm Stick** **9.00 Brian Cox: Space, Time & Videotape** **10.00 Cosmos: A Personal Voyage** **10.50 The Day After Tomorrow – Into Infinity** **11.40 The Day the Universe Changed** **12.30 The Heart of Country: How Nashville Became Music City USA** **2.00 Country Queens at the BBC** **3.00 John Denver: Country Boy** **4.00 Close**

ITV2

2.15 100% You've Been Framed! **3.15 You've Been Framed! Top 100 Kids** **4.20 Film: Despicable Me** (2010) **6.10 Film: Jurassic Park III** (2001) **8.00 Scorpion** **9.00 The Xtra Factor** **10.00 Film: I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry** (2007) **2.10 The Vampire Diaries** **2.55 Telethoning** **5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen**

ITV3

3.00 A Touch of Frost **5.00 Film: Columbo: Murder with Too Many Notes** (2000) **7.00 Lewis** **9.00 The One and Only Cilla Black** **10.30 An Audience with Barry Manilow** **11.30 Film: The Life of David Gai** (2003) **2.00 William and Mary** **2.50 Judge Judy** **3.30 ITV3 Nightscreen**

ITV4

11.40 Kojak **12.45 Live Snooker.** **5.15 Cheers** **5.45 Jimmy White: Sports Life Stories** **6.45 Live Snooker.** The concluding session of the Champion of Champions final. **11.15 Film: Born to Raise Hell** (2011) **1.20 Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors** **2.20 Tommy Cooper** **2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen** **3.00 Telethoning**

E4

3.55 New Girl **5.00 The Big Bang Theory** **8.00 Film: St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold** (2009) **10.05 The Inbetweeners** **11.15 Drifters** **11.50 Rude Tube: Utter Pranks** **12.50 Glue** **1.50 Rules of Engagement** **2.40 Rude Tube: Utter Pranks** **3.35 Hollyoaks**

Film4

1.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) **2.50 The Day the Earth Stood Still** (1951) **4.40 A Knight's Tale** (2001) **7.15 Post Grad** (2009) **9.00 Fracture** (2007)

deceember menu

In addition to our normal menu, we will be offering these additional festive treats

Salads

Vietnamese Noodle Salad

Avocado, Feta & Slow Roasted Tomato Salad

Middle Eastern Hummus with fried Tortilla Bread

Tuna Salad with Green Beans

Asparagus, Bean and Pine Nut Salad

Starters

Pigs in Blankets

Vegetable Samosa

Chilli Garlic Prawns

Thai Chicken Wings with a Sticky Honey Dressing

Tandoori Lamb mince skewers

French Onion Soup

Mains

Traditional Roast Turkey with trimmings

Singapore Style Fried Rice

Roast Butternut Squash or Pumpkin

Chicken Casserole with Red Wine and Roasted Peppers

Chicken Tikka Masala

Sahi Paneer Korma

Orange Chicken

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MONDAY
Pacific Heights, Channel 5, 10.55pm
 A couple buy their dream house and rent out a flat to a well-off bachelor who turns out to be the tenant from hell. He subjects them to a campaign of terror in a play to force them off the property – while the law appears to be always on his side. Psychological thriller, starring Michael Keaton, Melanie Griffith, Matthew Modine and Tippi Hedren. (1990)

TUESDAY
Secret Liaison, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A former District Attorney learns her sister has been accused of murder, and flies out to Los Angeles to clear her name. Her investigation uncovers a web of high-level infidelity and betrayal and leads to her making an enemy of one of the city's most powerful men. Thriller, starring Meredith Monroe and Rick Ravanello. (2013)

WEDNESDAY
Carnal Innocence, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 World-famous musician Caroline Waverly moves back to her quiet home town, hoping to establish a simpler life. However, her return coincides with a spate of killings, and as rumours spread that a serial killer is on the loose, she begins to worry she may be the next victim. Thriller based on Nora Roberts' novel, starring Gabrielle Anwar and Colin Egglesfield. (2011)



Psycho, Friday, Channel 4, 11.40pm

FRIDAY
GoldenEye, ITV, 10.40pm
 James Bond heads for Russia to investigate the connection between the theft of an experimental helicopter and an orbital satellite weapon with the power to devastate entire cities. He discovers both have fallen into the hands of a mysterious criminal mastermind. Adventure, with Pierce Brosnan. (1995)

Psycho, Channel 4, 11.40pm
 A woman on the run after stealing from her boss ends up at an isolated motel, where the owner's curious relationship with his domineering mother results in murder. Alfred Hitchcock's psychological thriller, starring Anthony Perkins and Janet Leigh. (1960)

Michael Collins, BBC2, 12.40am
 Fact-based drama focusing on the life of the Irish radical who rose to prominence after his involvement in the 1916 Easter Rising against British rule. Written and directed by Neil Jordan, and starring Liam Neeson, Julia Roberts, Alan Rickman and Aidan Quinn. (1996)

Paying a fitting tribute to our fallen war heroes

Every November we pay tribute to the selflessness of those individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, remembering their deeds and valour in conflicts across the globe.

This latest festival at the Royal Albert Hall, where some of the biggest names in music will gather together in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family, reminds us that Remembrance comes in different guises, both silent and celebratory.

Those paying homage to the fallen include the cast of War Horse and D-Day veteran Jim Radford. They perform alongside the Massed Bands of the Household Division, and the bands of HM Royal Marines and the Queen's Colour Squadron.

Huw Edwards presents coverage, which includes the traditional two-minute silence as thousands of poppy petals fall from the venue's ceiling.

This latest poignant show also features a performance by singer Joss Stone. The Grammy and Brit Award-winner has teamed up with guitarist Jeff Beck to record 2014's official Poppy Appeal single.

On October 23, Joss took part in The Watch – a sunrise to sunset vigil at the Cenotaph in central London – to launch 2014's Poppy Appeal.

"I was honoured to be asked to record this year's Poppy Appeal single and to take part in The Watch," explains Joss.

"It is a fantastic charity and The Watch is great new initiative and I hope it becomes a continuing feature each year when we remember the fallen and celebrate the living."

With this year marking the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, it will be an emotional time for many, including Pamela Armitage Campbell.

The eloquent octogenarian has a spirit that is infectious. It's possible she picked it up from her dad, Reg Evans.

Earlier this year he was portrayed by Daniel Mays in ITV's drama-documentary The Great War: The People's Story, but Reg's life is worthy of any big-screen epic.

The First World War hero was decorated for his bravery on the front line in 1915; he was awarded the

Distinguished Conduct Medal before suffering an injury that could have destroyed most people.

Reg was shot in the face in February 1916, an injury which cost him most of his jaw and sent him away from the battlefields.

After undergoing pioneering surgery and a period of recovery, he volunteered to continue to serve for the British forces in Russia.

Reg was posted far away from home until 1920, long after his peers had been demobbed.

"I've had my father's letters for many years now," Pamela explains. "I've spent a lot of time on my own because my husband worked in Germany and I was living in France, so I would take them out periodically and type out the letters. It would take a long time because they were written on bits of paper, anything he'd had to hand in the trenches."

Those notes and letters were turned into the ebook, Reg Evans DCM – A Hero's War in His Own Words, which like the Festival of Remembrance, is a fitting tribute to some unforgettably brave people.



Joss Stone is among the performers, Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2014, Saturday, BBC1, 9.10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
How Rich Are You? Channel 4, 8pm

Unless those winning Lottery numbers paid off, or you're the brains behind a lucrative business, money, for most of us, is too tight to mention. However, while many are struggling to make ends meet, we may be richer than we thought compared to some families. It's all a question of relativity, and one man who's attempting to put things in context is Richard Bacon. This one-off special illustrates where each of us stand in the great money map of Britain – and what that position means. As the UK has been officially declared the most unequal society in Europe, Bacon, the experts and the studio audience examine the consequences of the income divide.

TUESDAY
The Nation's Favourite Queen Song ITV, 9pm

Some groups can be dismissed with the phrase 'when you've heard one, you've heard them all', but not Queen. From the anthemic We Will Rock You to the disco-influenced Another One Bites the Dust via the rockability of Crazy Little Thing Called Love, the operatic Bohemian Rhapsody and the frankly indescribable Bicycle Race, their back catalogue is nothing if not eclectic. It's one of the reasons they

managed to rack up nearly 50 top 30 hits, and are still attracting new fans more than 23 years after frontman Freddie Mercury's death. But which of their tracks is the nation's favourite? This countdown aims to find out as it counts down the top 20. Celebrity fans including Katy Perry, Tony Hadley, Mel C, Noddy Holder and Arlene Phillips offer their opinions, while Queen members Roger Taylor and Brian May share some of the stories behind the songs.

WEDNESDAY
Broadmoor ITV, 9pm

Let's make no bones about it – the first part of this documentary made for rather shocking viewing, and this concluding part doesn't get much easier. Then again, that's why before now cameras haven't been allowed in the most famous high-security hospital in the world. In tonight's final instalment, one patient describes his life as 'satanic' and gives details of his abusive childhood, while another is finally considered well enough to leave Broadmoor after spending over a decade there. Meanwhile, the cameras follow patients taking part in a group drugs counselling session and

the nursing staff are on some vital training of their own. They're getting special training in managing small-scale riots kitted out with helmets and shields. Plus, it's explained how a new hospital is being built nearby to replace the old hospital, so we may never see Broadmoor in this light again.

THURSDAY
The Fall BBC2, 9pm

It's been just over a year since we last saw serial killer Paul Spector, and those of us who were hooked on the first series have been eagerly awaiting the second run to find out what he's been up to since then. Actually, not that much because the drama picks up just 10 days after Spector was seen taking his wife and children away from their Belfast home. However, life has changed dramatically for Jamie Dornan, the actor who plays him. He's been cast in the eagerly awaited Fifty Shades of



The Fall, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

Grey movie, which is set to turn him into a major star on both sides of the Atlantic. He's sure to be running from fans before long, rather than the police. Not that Spector appears to be panicking, although he does have lots of loose ends to tie up in Belfast, especially as his final victim is still alive. Gibson tries to help her remember her attacker, but it's hearing how a face from his past is assisting the police that prompts Spector into drastic – and terrifying – action.

FRIDAY
Children in Need 2014 BBC1, 7.30pm

Terry Wogan and Tess Daly kick off another bumper evening of fundraising fun in support of disadvantaged children across the UK. The cast of West End hit Charlie and the Chocolate Factory gets the party started before the action moves to Albert Square for a musical performance by the EastEnders stars. There's also a treat for Doctor Who fans with an exclusive clip. At 8pm, Bruce Forsyth is reunited with Tess Daly to host a junior version of Strictly Come Dancing, and the Children's Choir sees 2,000 young voices singing in unison across the nation. By 8.30pm One Direction make their first appearance of the evening, and there's plenty more to come before things wrap up at 2am.

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*SOURCE: JICREG 01.04.2014

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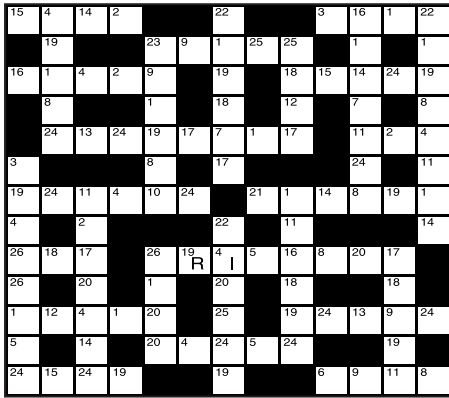
Property

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	X	E	H	G	Q	15	6	N	7	10	11	12	13
14	D	F	C	B	V	M	I	Z	T	L	A	J	O

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

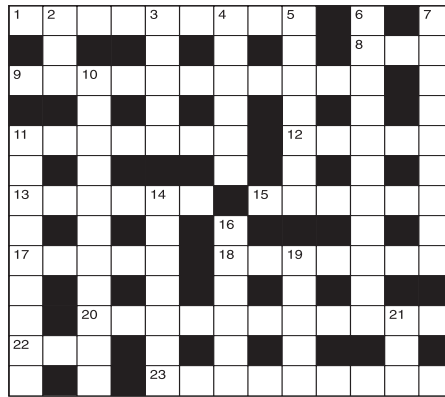
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Its catch is intended to be unharmed (6,3)
8. Single made in marriage (3)
9. Put the crowd on stage to entertain (4,3,4)
11. Poise graduate with spear (7)
12. Be of use back in Australia vacationing (5)
13. Hardened when damaged element removed (6)
15. A team's incidental remarks (6)
17. Great fear, almost, to make a mistake (5)
18. Game of bridge (7)
20. Precious stone lies around in Ireland (7,4)
22. Prohibition where drinks are sold (3)
23. Hasty seed changes unfavourably in such times (5,4)

Down

2. For both sides in the final leg (3)
3. Giant bird gets article (5)
4. Uncle Sam's girls? (6)
5. Courageous workers unlikely to be horse-lovers? (7)
6. Very many at the sales (4,3,4)
7. Fatal 17? (6,3)
10. Every side allowing no half-measures? (3,8)
11. Not a single-minded young lady (5-2-2)
14. Being serious, set out to get wages (7)
16. A poet I obtain a drug from (6)
19. Gently push George initially into being naked (5)
21. Not a professional's song (3)



Quick Clues:

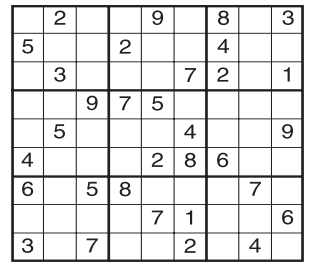
Across

1. Australian missile (9)
8. Sheep (3)
9. Remark (11)
11. Utmost (7)
12. Problem (5)
13. Thwarted (6)
15. Continue (4,2)
17. Antic (5)
18. Search (7)
20. Destroyed (11)
22. Curve (3)
23. Artifice (9)

Down

2. Sphere (3)
3. Weird (5)
4. Rouse (6)
5. Glance (7)
6. Aid (4,7)
7. Respect (9)
10. Positions (4,2,5)
11. Valid (9)
14. Missions (7)
16. Tie (6)
19. Guide (5)
21. Look at (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	5	3	8	9	7	4	2	6
7	6	9	4	5	2	1	8	3
4	8	2	1	3	6	9	5	7
3	1	5	2	8	4	7	6	9
8	4	6	7	1	9	5	3	2
9	2	7	5	6	3	8	1	4
2	7	1	6	4	5	3	9	8
5	3	4	9	2	8	6	7	1
6	9	8	3	7	1	2	4	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Repair; 8 Still; 10 Mineral; 11 Pulse; 12 Crew; 13 Byres; 17 Sight; 18 Tent; 22 Hated; 23 Noisome; 24 Second; 25 Menial. Down: 1 Grimace; 2 Spinner; 3 Fibre; 4 Staples; 5 Still; 6 Sheet; 9 Plaything; 14 Winding; 15 Deposit; 16 Steeple; 19 Chase; 20 Stock; 21 Lines. QUICK - Across: 7 Exempt; 8 Convert; 10 Elector; 11 Verse; 12 Shut; 13 Short; 17 Crash; 18 Lean; 22 Dress; 23 Requite; 24 Ravage; 25 Pieces. Down: 1 Reverse; 2 Revenue; 3 Spite; 4 Convert; 5 Heart; 6 Steer; 9 Orchestra; 14 Presage; 15 Bewitch; 16 Intense; 19 Adore; 20 Heavy; 21 Equip.

Quiz

1. In which year was the US Declaration of Independence issued?
2. Which former Spurs star died in December 1993?
3. In which ocean are the Wake Islands?
4. Which Russian billionaire bought Chelsea Football Club in 2003?
5. During whose reign was the name Saxe-Coburg-Gotha changed to Windsor?
6. How many players are there in a Gaelic football team?
7. How do we know the colourful bird erithacus rubecula?
8. In which country was gin first produced?
9. On which island is the resort of Cowes?
10. Which musical form is named after the Latin for 'flight'?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Jupiter; 2 Contras; 3 Iodine; 4 Sir Edward Heath; 5 Four; 6 Great

Expectations; 7 Graffiti; 8 Edinburgh; 9 220;

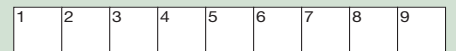
10 Alexander.

Niner: SQUEALING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

13697 gives a dog,
124468 gives another dog,
5398 gives a horse.



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£3850.00
90x90 Quadrant Cubicle with low level tray
15 SQM Wall Tiles
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Replacement Shower
New Basin & WC

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Are you having problems getting in and out of your bath? We will remove the bath and fit an easy access low level round, square or oblong cubicle and tile inside, supply a new replacement shower, a folding seat and grab rail

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£1950 PCM

Orient Place SUTTON COLDFIELD



- Two Bed Modern Apartment
- Fantastic rail links to the city centre.
- Very luxurious and modern throughout
- High spec kitchen and bathroom, allocated parking space.
- CALL TODAY TO ARRANGE YOUR VIEWING!

£750 PCM

Mob Lane SHELFIELD



- Large Four Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Three Receptions Plus Conservatory
- Four Bedrooms, One With En suite



- Large Private Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking And Field Views To Fore

£700 PCM

Field Close SHELFIELD



- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Kitchen, Large Lounge And Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms, Two With Fitted



- Storage
- Family Bathroom, Garage And Rear Gardens
- Sorry NO DHSS

£625 PCM

Grange Drive SUTTON COLDFIELD



- A FANTASTIC TWO bedroom ground floor apartment
- Sought after location of Grange Drive
- Lounge, Fitted Kitchen



- Two Bedrooms, Master En suite
- Family Bathroom And Parking

£600 PCM

York Road RUSHALL



- Three Bedroom End Of Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms And Bathroom



- Available Mid November
- Viewings Recommended!

£550 PCM

The Briars ALDRIDGE



- MODERN APARTMENT IN HIGHLY DESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT
- Large Lounge with Dining Area
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms, Master Ensuite
- Family Bathroom
- Allocated Parking Spaces

£525 PCM

Lapwing Close BROWNHILLS



- REDUCED!
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen With Integrated Appliances
- Two Bedrooms With Built In Wardrobes
- Bathroom And Canalside View!

£500 PCM

Radford Drive PELSALL



- Well Presented Two Bedroom Flat
- Large Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Family Bathroom
- Communal Gardens
- Available Mid November

£425 PCM

Adams Road BROWNHILLS



- Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen Diner, Sun Room.
- Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom,
- Rear Garden and Garage.

£575 PCM

Vigo Close WALSALL WOOD



- Well Presented Three Bedroom Home
- Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Garage And Outhouse
- Available Immediately

£595 PCM

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Extended three-bed is in sought after location



VIEWING is highly recommended for this pleasantly appointed and extended three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Stubby Lane, Wednesfield.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £125,995.

It has an entrance hall with stairs off, a lounge with a feature fireplace and display wall arches, a dining room with sliding patio doors to the garden, a modern re-fitted kitchen and shower room, three bedrooms. Contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01902 732324 or visit www.skitts.net



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*Normal Taylor Wimpey terms and conditions apply. Prices correct at time of going to print. Images used for illustrative purposes only. Images include optional upgrades at additional cost. Eligible applicants will be offered an equity loan of up to a maximum of 20% of the purchase price (based on the open market value). Applicants are required to fund at least 5% of the purchase price by means of a conventional mortgage, savings and any deposit where required. For the first five years there is no fee charged on the equity loan component. At the start of year six a fee of 1.75% is payable on the equity loan, which rises annually by RPI inflation plus 1%. The equity loan is provided by the HCA and held as a second charge. Terms and conditions apply and full details will be provided on request. This offer is subject to status and only available on selected developments and properties in England only. It is not offered with any other promotion. YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE.

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AUCTION

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7pm Prompt at

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Address	Saturday 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th November	Wednesday 12th, 19th & 26th November
29 Yew Tree Lane Tettenhall, WV6 8UG	10:00am	10:00am
6 Brocton Close Bloxwich, WS3 2QD	11:00am	11:00am
54 New Penkridge Road, Cannock, WS11 1HW	12:00pm	12:00pm
11 Pendle Hill Hednesford, WS12 1LW	12:30pm	12:30pm
Land Adj. 39 Wattfield Close, Brereton	By calling on site with auction catalogue to hand	

01543 505454

AUCTION CATALOGUE

AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD

www.bootandson.co.uk

LOT 1



29 YEW TREE LANE, TETTENHALL

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Detached bungalow
- ◆ Two bedrooms
- ◆ Gas central heating ◆ Double glazing
- ◆ In need of renovation/improvement
- ◆ Potential for extension (subject to planning permission)
- ◆ EPC rating 43

Guide price £220,000 to £240,000

LOT 2



6 BROCTON CLOSE, BLOXWICH
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Mid terraced house
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Gas central heating
- ◆ Fully double glazed
- ◆ Ideal buy to let
- ◆ EPC rating 71

Guide Price: £80,000 to £90,000

LOT 3



LAND ADJ. 39 WATTFIELD CLOSE, BRERETON
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Individual building plot
- ◆ With benefit of planning permission to erect an individual detached two bedroomed house

GUIDE PRICE: £50,000 TO £55,000

LOT 4



11 PENDLE HILL, HEDNESFORD
LEASEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Detached house
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Part double glazed
- ◆ In need of improvement/ refurbishment
- ◆ EPC rating 30

LOT 5



54 NEW PENKRIDGE ROAD, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Detached house of character
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Gas fired central heating (Not tested)
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ In need of improvement / refurbishment/redevelopment
- ◆ Located in much sought after residential area of the town

GUIDE PRICE £150,000-£160,000

SKITTS

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NEW INSTRUCTION

NEW

EPC TBC



ESSINGTON WALDALE CLOSE

- Exceptional Extended Link Detached Property in Popular Cul-de-sac Location
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Superb refitted kitchen
- Utility and wc
- Study
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Block paved driveway
- Garage
- Delightful front and rear gardens

£199,500

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

EXTENDED

EPC D



WILLENHALL NOOSE LANE

- Exceptional Much Extended Semi Detached Bungalow
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Large Dining Kitchen
- Utility
- Double Garage
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Extensive Rear Gardens

£185,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

NEW

EPC TBC



COPPICE FARM LONG MYND CLOSE

- Impeccably Appointed Detached Property
- Popular Cul De Sac Location
- Lounge
- Superb Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Re-Fitted En-Suite
- Integral Garage
- Block Paved Driveway
- Delightful Rear Gardens

£195,000

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on - **WILLENHALL 01902 631151**

EXTENDED ESSINGTON LARCHMERE DRIVE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exceptional executive detached family residence ● Lounge ● Dining room ● Conservatory ● Five bedrooms ● Double glazing, gas central heating ● Spacious breakfast kitchen & utility ● Bathroom ● En-suite shower room ● Beautiful landscaped corner plot gardens ● Garage and driveway £325,000	FOUR BEDROOMS COPPICE FARM NIGHTINGALE CRESCENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Modern Detached Property ● Prime location ● Lounge ● Dining room ● Kitchen ● Utility with wc ● Four Bedrooms ● En-suite ● Refitted Bathroom ● Double Glazing ● Gas CH ● Rear Garden ● Garage £225,000	EXTENDED COPPICE FARM GRAZEWOOD CLOSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extended Modern Detached ● Highly Sought After Location ● Three Bedrooms ● Lounge ● Dining Room ● Conservatory ● Kitchen ● Utility with WC ● Garage ● Driveway ● Further Rear Driveway ● Gardens ● Bathroom £175,000	THREE BEDROOMS BENTLEY, WALSALL TENBURY CLOSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Superb Modern Style Semi Detached ● Spacious Lounge ● Re-Fitted Kitchen ● Three Bedrooms ● Brand New Bathroom ● Gas Central Heating ● Double Glazing ● Driveway ● Delightful Landscaped Rear Gardens ● Planning Permission for Two Storey Side Extension £140,000	REDUCED WILLENHALL WELLAND GROVE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Modern Style Semi Detached ● Popular Corner Plot Position ● Lounge ● Kitchen ● Three Bedrooms ● Garage ● Driveway ● Gardens ● No Chain £135,000	NO CHAIN COUNTY BRIDGE WORCESTER ROAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Much Improved Semi Detached ● Hall ● Fitted Kitchen ● Through Lounge / Dining Room ● Impressive Conservatory ● Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Double Glazing ● Gas CH ● Block Paved Driveway ● Superb Large Rear Gardens £130,000	REDUCED COUNTY BRIDGE CORONATION AVENUE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Traditional Semi Detached ● No Chain ● Lounge ● Re-Fitted Dining Kitchen ● Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom ● Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating ● Rear Gardens £119,500	THREE BEDROOMS WILLENHALL WOLVERHAMPTON RD WEST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Superb Modern Style Semi Detached ● Hall ● Lounge ● Dining Kitchen ● Three Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom ● Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating System ● Two Allocated Parking Spaces ● Delightful Side & Rear Gardens £125,000
NEW SHORT HEATH TENNYSON ROAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Impressive End Terrace Property ● Hall ● Lounge ● Re-Fitted Kitchen ● Utility with WC ● Three Good Size Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Shower Room ● Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating ● Delightful Rear Gardens ● Block Paved Driveway £115,000	REDUCED SNEYD PARK CEDAR PARK ROAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mid Terrace Property ● No Upward Chain ● Hall ● Spacious Lounge ● Kitchen ● Two Double Bedrooms ● Bathroom ● Double Glazing ● Garage ● Rear Gardens OFFERS OVER £100,000	NEW WILLENHALL TILDESLEY DRIVE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mid terraced property in popular location with No Chain ● Two double bedrooms ● Through lounge ● Kitchen ● Two Double Bedrooms ● Shower room ● Double glazing ● Gas central heating ● Front and rear gardens £100,000	NEW BENTLEY POPLAR AVENUE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Semi detached property in popular location with no chain ● Two double bedrooms ● Lounge ● Dining kitchen ● Conservatory ● Double glazing ● Gas central heating ● Garage to the rear ● Front and rear gardens £99,950	REDUCED NEW INVENTION HILTON ROAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Well presented mid terrace ● No chain ● Three good size bedrooms ● Hall with guest wc ● Superb refitted dining kitchen ● Lounge ● Refitted shower room ● Double glazing ● Gas CH ● Rear garden £97,000	REDUCED BENTLEY DYSON CLOSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spacious mid terraced property ● Lounge ● Dining kitchen ● Two large double bedrooms ● Bathroom with white suite ● Double glazing ● Gas central heating ● Rear gardens ● Communal parking £89,950	REDUCED WILLENHALL ST ANNE'S ROAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Period Mid Terrace Property ● Through Lounge / Dining Room ● Fitted Kitchen ● Ground Floor wet room ● Three Bedrooms ● Double Glazing ● Garage ● Rear Gardens ● No Chain £85,000	REDUCED WILLENHALL HARRY PERKS STREET <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mid terraced property ● Three good size bedrooms ● Lounge ● Kitchen ● Ground floor wet room ● First floor bathroom ● Double glazing ● Gas central heating ● Rear garden ● Driveway ● No chain £84,950

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MANAGERS CHOICE!

NEW

EPC: TBC



**BLOXWICH
BROAD LANE**

- Much improved semi detached property
- Extended to the rear and side elevations
- Popular Broad Lane location
- Four bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Bathroom and shower room
- Detached garage
- Block paved driveway

£184,950 OFFERS

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK!

NEW

EPC: TBC



**BLOXWICH
BROAD LANE**

- Three bedroom town house style property
- Lounge
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Popular location
- Off road parking
- Generous rear garden
- No upward chain
- Ideal first time buy

£94,950 OFFERS

STAR BUY!

NEW

EPC: TBC



**WALSALL
BELL TOWER CLOSE**

- Pleasant modern style town house
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Spacious rear lounge
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazed
- Garage
- Off road parking
- Cul-de-sac location
- Viewings are highly recommended!!

£149,950 OFFERS

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on - **WALSALL 01922 478104**

REDUCED

EPC: D



**BEECHDALE, WALSALL
REMINGTON ROAD**

- Pleasantly presented mid town house style property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazing
- Kitchen diner
- Lounge with feature fire place
- First floor modern style bathroom

OFFERS OVER £90,000

REDUCED

EPC: F



**PELSALL
OLD TOWN LANE**

- Charming character Victorian style end terraced property conveniently situated near to Pelsall Village centre
- Ideal first time purchase
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms

OFFERS OVER £130,000

REDUCED

EPC: D



**BLOXWICH
BOOTH STREET**

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached property thought ideal for first time buyers or a young family
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Upstairs bathroom
- Bedroom one with fitted wardrobes

OFFERS OVER £89,995

REDUCED

EPC: C



**BLOXWICH
ABINGDON WAY**

- Pleasant corner positioned semi detached property offering accommodation thought ideal for the young family
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Lounge and breakfast kitchen
- Upstairs shower room

OFFERS OVER £89,950

NEW

EPC: TBC



**BLOXWICH
INGRAM ROAD**

- Extended traditional style semi detached property pleasantly positioned off Field Road, Bloxwich
- Surprisingly spacious living accommodation
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Well equipped fitted kitchen
- Utility room/sun room and downstairs w.c

£144,950 OFFERS

NEW

EPC: E



**BLOXWICH
LICHFIELD ROAD**

- Semi detached property situated behind generous frontage along popular Lichfield Road in Bloxwich
- Three bedrooms
- Part double glazing
- Gas central heating system
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen and utility room
- Upstairs bathroom with shower

£134,950 OFFERS

NEW

EPC: D



**LEAMORE
COPE STREET**

- End terraced style property conveniently located with good links to Bloxwich and Walsall town centres
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating system
- Upvc double glazing
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen and bathroom
- Garden to the rear

£72,500

REDUCED

EPC: C



**BLOXWICH
CRESSWELL CRESCENT**

- Pleasantly appointed traditional end town house style property with two storey side extension
- Three bedrooms and loft room
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- First floor bathroom with shower

£114,950

NEW

EPC: C



**BLOXWICH
GLASTONBURY CRESCENT**

- Town house style property situated in Mossley development, Bloxwich
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating system
- Double glazing
- Two reception rooms
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Garden to the rear
- Off road parking

£74,950

NEW

EPC: E



**REEDSWOOD, WALSALL
PARKVIEW CRESCENT**

- Extended semi detached property pleasantly situated in end of cul de sac location
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Double glazed windows
- Lounge and dining areas
- Extended kitchen with integrated appliances

OFFERS OVER £125,000

NEW

EPC: C



**BLOXWICH
GLASTONBURY CRESCENT**

- Pleasant town house style property offering accommodation thought ideal for first time purchasers or a young family
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Spacious full width fitted dining kitchen
- Front lounge with fitted gas fire

£97,500 OFFERS

NEW

EPC: F



**BLOXWICH, WALSALL
HARRISON STREET**

- Pleasant Victorian style terrace conveniently situated near to Bloxwich High Street
- Two bedrooms
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Spacious 23ft through lounge/dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Garden to the rear

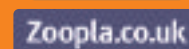
£94,995 OFFERS

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EPC:D

SQUIRES GROVE NEW INVENTION

- Well presented modern style first floor apartment
- Two bedrooms with built in storage
- Master with en-suite
- Bathroom
- Modern style kitchen
- Storage heating
- Double glazed
- Allocated parking
- Council Tax band 'B'

£545 PCM

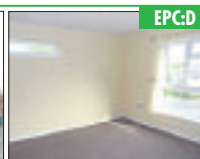


EPC:TBC

HARRISON STREET BLOXWICH

- Beautifully presented traditional mid terraced property
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Re-fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with roll top bath
- Period Features & Double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Pleasant rear garden
- Council tax band 'B'

£595 PCM



EPC:D

STOWE STREET BLOXWICH

- Second floor apartment
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Newly carpeted & decorated throughout
- Majority double glazed
- Central heating
- Council tax band 'A'

£425 PCM



EPC:E

CROXDENE AVENUE BLOXWICH

- Semi detached property
- Porch
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Newly refitted kitchen
- Newly refitted bathroom
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Gas central heating & Double glazed
- Front & rear garden

£525 PCM

TENANTS!
OUR APPLICATION FEES
ARE ONLY
£150 PLUS VAT
THAT COVERS UP TO
THREE APPLICANTS!
A SECURITY DEPOSIT
EQUivalent TO 6 WEEKS
OF THE RENT IS REQUIRED



EPC:D

BENTLEY LANE WALSALL

- Pleasantly appointed mid terraced style property
- Two double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Re-fitted kitchen
- Downstairs bathroom
- UPVC Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Garden to the rear
- Dhss considered

£400 PCM



EPC: C

WYVERN CLOSE WEDNESFIELD

- First floor one bed maisonette
- D/Glazing & majority c/heating
- Fitted kitchen
- Bathroom
- Rear garden with patio area

£400 PCM



EPC: D

BOW STREET WILLENHALL

- Two bed mid terrace
- Close to W'hall centre
- Lounge & kitchen
- Central heating
- Fitted bathroom
- Rear garden

£395 PCM



EPC: E

LAKESIDE CLOSE WILLENHALL

- Back To Back End Town House
- Cul De Sac Location
- Lounge & Kitchen
- One Bedroom
- Double Glazing

£395 PCM



EPC:B

PRINCETHORPE RD WILLENHALL

- Modern style mid town house
- Three bedrooms
- Fitted dining kitchen
- Enclosed rear garden
- Central heating & double glazed
- Off road parking

£575 PCM



EPC:C

ASTBURY CLOSE BLOXWICH

- Smart modern town house
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central & double glazed
- Fitted kitchen including oven & hob
- Bathroom with shower

£525 PCM

bloxwich@skitts.net 01922 478 104

wednesfield@skitts.net 01902 732324
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Lorna Dawson, Homeowner's daughter



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31

The Chronicle

Thursday, November 6, 2014

REDUCED

FOR SALE

TREETOPS DR, WILLENHALL
One Bed First Floor Flat. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom And Bathroom. Also Having Full UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. Outside There Is A Garage In Separate Block.

£65,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

FOR SALE

RUGELEY AVENUE, W'HALL
Two Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Enclosed Side Access & Family Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear. Excellent First Time Buy Or BTL Investment!

£89,995

ONLY ONE PLOT REMAINING

FOR SALE

LANE HEAD CLOSE, W'HALL
Two Bed End Town House. Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Guest W.C., Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, En-suite Shower Room To Master & Bathroom. DG & GCH. Off Road Parking To Fore & Enclosed Rear Garden.

£125,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

FOR SALE

BAYNTON RD, WILLENHALL
Extended Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Open Plan Lounge / Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom. The Garage Is Part Converted Into A Utility Room & Storage Area. D/G, G/C/H. O/R/P. Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£145,000

IDEAL BUY TO LET

FOR SALE

FARMHOUSE RD, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Second Floor Flat. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen & Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazed, Gas Central Heated. Access To Storage Shed & Communal Gardens. Shared Off Road Parking.

£65,000

REDUCED

FOR SALE

GIPOY LANE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing. Close To Willenhall Town Centre Giving Access To Good Local Amenities, Schools and Transport Links. Great Investment Property.

£72,500

FOR SALE

VICTORIA STREET, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Mid Terrace. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Shower Room, First Floor Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Front And Rear Gardens. Great First Time Buy Or Buy To Let.

£80,000

FOR SALE

REGENT STREET, WILLENHALL
Two Bedroom Mid Terraced. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Rear Lobby, Fitted Kitchen And Ground Floor Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazed And Gas Central Heated. Garden To Rear. Great FTB or BTL!

£80,000

REDUCED

FOR SALE

BLOXWICH RD, 5TH W'HALL
Spacious Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment. Comprises Of Open Plan Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, En-Suite Shower Room & Family Bathroom. G/C/H, D/G. Allocated Parking And Communal Courtyard.

£91,500

FOR SALE

WELLINGTON COURT, W'HALL
Modern One Bed Duplex Apartment Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom. D/Glazing, Storage Heating. Gated Parking. Great First Time Buy Or Investment Opportunity.

£92,500

GREAT FIRST TIME BUY

FOR SALE

STAR CLOSE, BENTLEY
Well Presented Three Bedroom Mid Town House Comprising Of Entrance Porch & Hall, Guest W.C., Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Shower Room, D/G, G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear. MUST VIEW!

£100,000

FOR SALE

MEMORY LANE, DARLASTON
Superbly Presented Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, & Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Garden To Front, Parking To Side & Generous Rear Garden. MUST VIEW!

£107,500

FOR SALE

FLETCHER ROAD, W'HALL
Three Bed Semi, Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Area, Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H. Covered Outbuildings. Off Road Parking & An Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£110,000

VIEWING ADVISED

FOR SALE

CHAUCER AVE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, 16ft Conservatory, Shower Room, Enclosed Side Access With Brick Built Outbuilding. D/G & G/C/H. Off Road Parking & Enclosed Rear Garden.

£119,995

FOR SALE

COLTHAM ROAD, WILLENHALL
Three Bed End Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & G/C/H. Garden To Front & Rear & Off Road Parking.

£124,995

FOR SALE

PRESTWOOD AVE, W'FIELD
Three Bed Traditional Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, 24ft Through Lounge/ Diner, Fitted Kitchen And Family Bathroom. Outside Is Off Road Parking And An Enclosed Rear Garden.

£125,000

FOR SALE

SHEPPWELL GREEN, W'HALL
Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. UPVC D/Glazing, Gas C/ Heating, Off Road Parking, Gardens To Front And Rear.

£127,500

FOR SALE

BASALT CLOSE, REEDSWOOD
Modern Three Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, En-Suite To Master Bed & Bathroom, Garage, Garden To The Front With Off Road Parking & An Fully Enclosed Rear Garden.

£130,000

FOR SALE

GOREY CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Hall, Lounge, Recently Re-Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Which Has Also Been Re-Fitted And Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Parking To Front & Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£130,000

VIEWING ADVISED

FOR SALE

LICHFIELD ROAD, WILLENHALL
Extended Three Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Hall, Lounge, Extended Kitchen With Dining Area And Shower Room. D/G & G/C/H. Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking And Garage.

£135,000

STAMP DUTY PAID!

FOR SALE

AMPLEFORTH DRIVE, W'HALL
Three Bed End Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Ground Floor W.C., Lounge, Fitted Kitchen With Dining Area And Modern Family Bathroom. UPVC D/Glazed And Central Heated. Off Road Parking, Garden To Rear. STAMP DUTY PAID BY VENDOR!

£137,500

FOR SALE

PATTENHAM CL, WILLENHALL
Three Storey, Three Bed Town House. Ground Floor Has Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, W.C. First Floor Has Two Double Bedrooms And Bathroom, En-Suite Master To Second Floor, Gardens To Front & Rear.

£140,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

FOR SALE

COPPICE FARM WAY, W'HALL
Extended Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room And Family Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazed And Gas Central Heated. Driveway Parking To The Fore And Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£140,000

FOR SALE

WILLENHALL RD, BILSTON
Extended Three Bed Semi Detached House Comprising Of Entrance Porch And Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Extended Modern Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, Ground Floor W.C., First Floor Family Bathroom. Generous Garden To The Front And Side, Off Road Parking & Garage. Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£149,995

FOR SALE

SHEPPWELL GREEN, W'HALL
Three Bed Detached Dormer Bungalow. Comprises Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, Ground Floor Bedroom, Two Bathrooms, Two First Floor Bedrooms, GCH, DG, Detached Garage, Front & Rear Gardens.

£150,000

EXTENSIVE GARDENS

FOR SALE

ARNHEM ROAD, W'HALL
Well Presented Three Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, W.C., Family Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Off Road Parking To The Front & Extensive Gardens To The Rear.

£155,000

FOR SALE

ALVINGTON CL, WILLENHALL
Extended Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Porch & Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen With Dining Area, Guest W.C & Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Extensive Off Road Parking And Rear Garden.

£150,000

REDUCED

FOR SALE

THE GREEN, DARLASTON
Four Bed Detached House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Rear Hallway, En-Suite Shower To Master Bed & Family Bathroom. Rear Garden & Off Road Parking.

£157,995

FOR SALE

BIRCHTREE HOLLOW, W'HALL
Extended Five Bed Semi Detached Having Entrance Porch & Hall, Spacious Lounge/Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area, Ground Floor W.C., Additional Sitting Room And Family Bathroom. D/Glazing, C/ Heating, Driveway.

£160,000

FOR SALE

HIGHMOOR CL, COPPICE FARM
Three Bed Detached Having Lounge, Separate Dining Room With UPVC Double Glazed French Doors, Fitted Kitchen, Master Bedroom With Fitted Wardrobes, Two Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage And Block Paved Driveway.

£169,995

FOR SALE

LICHFIELD RD, NEW INVENTION
Two Bed Detached Bungalow Having Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway.

£180,000

FOR SALE

CRAB LANE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Dormer Bungalow, Comprises Entrance Hall, Lounge/ Diner, Kitchen, Bathroom, One Bedroom To Ground Floor. First Floor Has Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, D/G, G/C/H. Front/Rear Gardens. Driveway & Garage.

£180,000

VIEWING ADVISED

FOR SALE

RIVERBANK RD, WILLENHALL
Immaculate Four Bed Semi Bungalow. Comprises Entrance Porch & Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, En-Suite Shower To The Master & Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H, Garage, Gardens Front & Rear.

£195,000

CHARACTER PROPERTY

FOR SALE

BUSH STREET, DARLASTON
Three Bed Cottage Style Detached Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Bathroom, Fitted Kitchen, Two Reception Rooms & En-Suite W.C To Master Bed. Outside Is Gated Parking, Double Garage With Office & Garden.

£195,000

FOR SALE

MILL LANE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached Bungalow With One Bed Annex. Comprises Of Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Family Bathroom. The Annex Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner & Bedroom With En-Suite Shower Room.

£280,000

VIEWING ADVISED

FOR SALE

BILSTON LANE, WILLENHALL
Impressive Four Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of 24ft Lounge, Dining Room, Impressive Kitchen/Diner, Luxurious Bathroom, Separate W.C., Feature Games Room, Brick Built Workshop. Secure Parking & Garden.

£305,000

TO LET

FIRST FLOOR FLAT COMPRISSES OF
Entrance Hall, Stairs To First Floor, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, G/C/H, D/Glazing. Outside There Is A Shared Driveway To The Fore And A Generous Garden To The Rear.

£400 PCM

LET AGREED

STAR CLOSE, BENTLEY
Two Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Lounge And Fitted Kitchen Diner With Patio Doors Out To The Rear Garden. Family Bathroom With Shower. D/G & G/C/H. To The Outside There Are Front & Rear Gardens & Allocated Parking.

£450 PCM

LET AGREED

KEYSMITH CLOSE, W'HALL
Modern Two Bed First Floor Apartment Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, Two Good Sized Bedrooms With The Master Having Access To The Fitted Bathroom (Jack & Jill Style). D/G & G/C/H & Allocated Parking With Remote Gated Access.

£475 PCM

TO LET

KINGFISHER COURT, W'HALL
Two Bed Apartment, Furnished Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Bathroom With Shower, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Double Glazing & Central Heating. Private Gated Entrance With Allocated Parking.

£500 PCM

LET AGREED

STUBBINGTON CL, W'HALL
Two Bed Detached Bungalow Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge Being Open Plan Into The Conservatory, Kitchen, Family Shower Room, The Property Also Benefits D/G & G/C/H. To The Outside There Is A Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden & Ample Off Road Parking To The Fore.

£525 PCM

TO LET

GREAVES CRESCENT, W'HALL
Three/Four Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bedroom Four/ Second Reception Room, Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. To The Outside There Is Off Road Parking To The Front & Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£550 PCM

TO LET

DERWENT CLOSE, W'HALL
Three Bed Detached Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, W.C., Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen & Utility Room. En-Suite To Master, Family Bathroom. Ample Off Road Parking To The Front And An Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

650 PCM

TO LET

YALE ROAD, WILLENHALL
Modern Three Bed Detached Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Kitchen, W.C., Lounge, Integral Garage, En-suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Off Road Parking & An Enclosed Garden To The Rear. Situated Close To Good Local Schools, Transport Links And Amenities.

675 PCM

Willenhall 01902 606595

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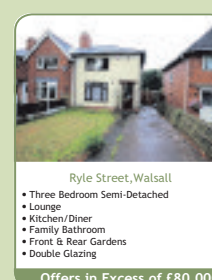
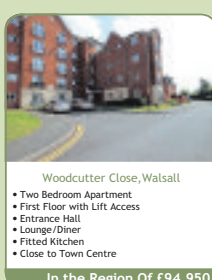
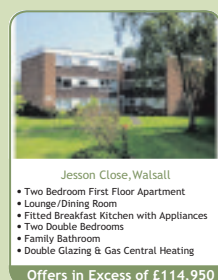
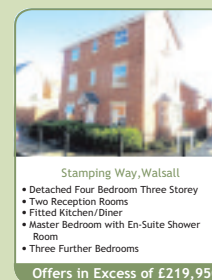




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- Vernon Way, Walsall
- Two/Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow
 - One/Two Reception Rooms
 - Fully Fitted Kitchen
 - Ground Floor Bathroom
 - Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room

In the Region Of £210,000



- Wallington Close, Walsall
- Extended Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow
 - Large Lounge
 - L' Shaped Extended Kitchen/Diner
 - Utility/Cloak W.C.
 - Three Bedrooms

Offers in Excess of £195,000



Lichfield Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Utility
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

In the Region Of £179,950



- Gorey Close, Willenhall
- Extended Three Bedroom Detached
 - Three Reception Rooms
 - Kitchen/Diner
 - Utility/W.C.
 - Conservatory
 - Newly Fitted Family Bathroom

Offers in Excess of £178,000



Castings Close, Walsall

- NEW BUILD
- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- GUEST W.C.
- LOUNGE/DINER
- MASTER BEDROOM WITH EN-SUITE

Prices from £160,000



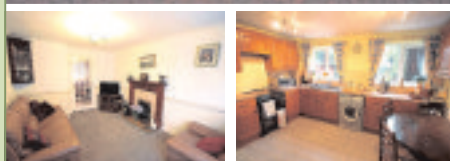
- Pattenham Close, Willenhall
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
 - Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen with Breakfast Area
 - Rear Lobby with Guest W.C.
 - Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room

In the region of £149,950



- John Riley Drive, Willenhall
- Three Bedroom Detached
 - Extended Entrance Hall
 - Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliance
 - Family Bathroom
 - Integral Garage

In the Region Of £142,500



Copple Farm Way, Willenhall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Laundry Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Block Paved Driveway with Car Port
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- NO CHAIN

£140,000



Clarks Lane, Willenhall

- Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility/Guest W.C.
- Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms

Fixed £139,995



Ravenscroft Road, Willenhall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Additional Sitting Room/Bedroom
- Ground Floor Wet Room
- Three Bedrooms

In the Region Of £139,950



Simmonds Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Utility
- Conservatory
- Newly Fitted Bathroom with Shower

In the Region Of £138,950



- Heathside Walk, Walsall
- ••• NEW BUILD ••••
 - Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
 - Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room
 - Downstairs Cloak Room
 - Master Bedroom
 - Show Home Style Two Bedroom Apartment
 - Lounge/Dining Room
 - Kitchen including Integrated Appliances
 - Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room
 - Family Bathroom

Rough Brook Road, Walsall

- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- MUST BE VIEWED
- Ideal for First Time Buyers

In the Region Of £104,995



Wychbold Close, Willenhall

- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Guest W.C.
- Master Bedroom with Walk-In Wardrobe Area

Offers in Excess of £100,000



Central Drive, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom with Shower
- Front, Rear & Side Gardens
- Garage & Carport

Offers in Excess of £100,000



Hawbush Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Side Entrance
- Utility/Guest W.C.
- Family Bathroom

In the Region Of £97,000



Squires Grove, Willenhall

- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Lounge with Juliet Balcony
- Fitted Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Further Double Bedroom
- Family Bathroom

In the Region Of £95,000



Guild Avenue, Walsall

- Extended Three Bed End Terrace
- Immaculately Presented
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.

In the Region Of £95,000



Manorhouse Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
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- Gas Central Heating

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NX offers plenty but there's stiff opposition

By Matt Kimberley

The NX 300h has technology and refinement in spades but it's up against stiff competition. This is more of a case of what isn't new, because the NX is fresh off the drawing board as a little brother to the much-respected RX. If the RX 400h hybrid was the father of social-ly-acceptable SUVs, the NX 300h is a not-so-distant cousin.

The styling is as sharp as a supermodel's face, and you'll probably either love it or hate it. That's what Lexus wants, because you can't please everybody and it's better to please some people a lot than fade into the background. The NX is no shrinking violet, as long as you avoid silver. There's a completely new colour option that layers ordinary paint over a highly compressed layer of flake to create a deeper, more lustrous shine. Even in white the difference is obvious – and deliciously premium.

Choose anything above the basic S model and you'll benefit from winter-beating four-wheel drive. The NX is a bit of a Tardis, too, with 475 litres of boot space courtesy of a huge hidden compartment and enough rear legroom to let your kids have a game of boules.

There's also a space-saver spare wheel as standard – unique among the NX's rivals. But check this out for a practical feature: the bottle holder in the centre console has a high-friction base so you can open twist-cap drinks with one hand. Very neat.

There's also an induction charging pad that needs no wires to charge a compatible handset. You're basically driving the future.

For the most part the NX is high quality, especially the leathers. There are one or two small bits of Toyota-spec plastic but they're easy to ignore. The touch-pad computer interface is actually more intuitive than you might initially give it credit for, too.

Refined

The drive is impressively refined, with supple suspension, decent body control and super-smooth response from the hybrid powertrain.

It's not that hard to accelerate gently away using just the electric motor, but on the other hand the outright performance is nothing Usain Bolt would get excited about. There's no two ways about it – it's pretty pedestrian.

At least the seats are worth a postcard home. Big, perfectly supportive and highly adjustable, the only caveat is for drivers who like their seat back very upright, at which point the forward-leaning anti-whiplash headrests become a pain.

The Mark Levinson stereo – exclusive to the Premier trim grade – is worth a mention too. It has special software to identify and compensate for the lost quality of compressed digital music, and as long as the source is hooked up via a wired connection, it's brilliant. Music played via Bluetooth doesn't benefit in the same way.

The NX has stiff opposition from its German arch-enemies, but it's more than good enough to win fans at the mid-range Luxury price of £34,495. Classic FM-smooth hybrid drive is a big selling point and the clever on-board tech is right on the money.

It's just a shame that so much of it is reserved for this £42,995 Premier range-topper.

But who would buy one? There are USPs for parents, business users, tech geeks and obviously people who've had enough of the usual German options.

The NX is a clever car, and a lot of people should appreciate its comfort, gadgets and generally premium feel. This deserves to be the car that boosts Lexus' UK sales to the next level.

This car summed up in a single word: Advanced. If this car was animal: It would be a chimpanzee. It's intelligent, versatile and well put-together.

TESTED

Lexus NX 300h Premier, from £42,995

Drivetrain: 2.5-litre petrol engine and electric motors, together producing 192bhp

Transmission: E-CVT automatic driving the front wheels (independent motor drives the rears)

Performance: Top speed 112mph, 0-62mph in 9.2 seconds

Economy: 54.3mpg combined

Emissions: 121g/km of CO₂

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Volkswagen's new Passat is well worth a close look at

By Ian Donaldson

You will be familiar with the law of diminishing returns, where you pay increasingly large amounts of money for ever smaller improvements.

It applies, especially, to consumer goods, from watches to mobile phones ... and cars.

Now, you might be thinking 'is this going to apply to the new VW Passat, reviewed here?'

Well, it costs about £1,000 more than the outgoing, seventh edition Passat, but you don't need to travel far to conclude it's worth every extra penny.

Prices start at £22,215 and top out for the moment at £37,035, although other models are in the pipeline, of course, which will add technology and swell the bottom line.

The VW Group (which takes in VW, Audi, Seat and Skoda, among others, remember), sells more Passats around the world than any other of its models, selling one somewhere every 29 seconds.

Profit

Which makes the new Passat a very important car indeed, especially as the boss of the VW brand said recently his bit of the group had to make more money as he watched Audi coining it in, not to speak of Porsche, where profit arrives by the turbocharged shed load.

You can just imagine the midnight oil burned to make sure nothing is left to chance when a new Passat is on the drawing board.

So, here we have a car that's smaller than before in length and height (if a little wider) but which offers more room inside for people and their luggage. To the extent that there's real leg stretching room in the rear for six-footers, while the boot varies from huge in the saloon, to ballroom proportioned in the estate and surely big enough for the largest of growing families.

Generation eight Passat also comes with engines that emit fewer nasty gases, have better fuel consumption and, depending on version and ticked option boxes, a host of clever technology.

You can, for instance, have a car that steers for you when reversing a caravan, or one that hits the brakes hard if you fail to slow for a pedestrian who steps into the road.

Or how about a Passat that brakes, accelerates and steers for you in stop-go traffic. Yes, really.

Destined

Here in the UK we'll likely buy a shade more estates than saloons and all will have diesels under their flat, wide bonnets as it's deemed not worth the bother importing petrol versions as almost nobody would buy one.

That's because nearly every Passat sold here is destined for the company car park and diesels make a compelling case for business users.

They won't be disappointed. On the right, smoothly finished, road the new Passat makes almost no noise.

It's such a quality, hushed place to go to work in that your typically time-short business user is going to arrive for the next meeting as fresh and relaxed as when he (or she) left the office two hours before.

The Passat is, thankfully, no sports car but it tackles corners with some enthusiasm while making sure the comfort of all aboard is more important than track honed reactions.

There's added comfort from the electrically adjustable seats in the SE and SE Business level cars, the latter adding satellite navigation and, combined, likely to take the bulk of UK sales.

These two cars also have adaptive cruise control and front and rear parking sensors; yet more features to ease a business person's progress through the working day.

Helping too will be the thought that there is precious little to be gained by spending more money on a car (yes, probably another German) that really offers no more than the new Passat but carries a badge with more prestige.

A clear case of diminishing returns ...

TESTED

Volkswagen Passat 2.0 TDI 150 SE Business

Engine: 148bhp diesel

Warranty: Three years or 60,000 miles

Economy: The Passat can do 68.9mpg

Insurance group: TBC

Price: £25,135



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Meriva has real appeal for family car buyers

By David Banner

It used to be so difficult. You wanted a vehicle with decent economy that could do the family duties, yet had something about it when you pressed the throttle pedal. Trying to square those requirements for a reasonable budget could tie even the most knowledgeable car enthusiast in knots.

These days things are a whole lot easier. If you want to know how easy, just go to a Vauxhall dealer and cajole them into lending you a Meriva 1.6 CDTi diesel. It's a car that's been steadily improved over the course of its lifetime, but replacing the old 1.7-litre diesel lump with a smaller but more modern, powerful and economical engine has given this particular Meriva real appeal for family buyers.

Developing a healthy 136PS, this Euro6-compliant motor serves up a supersized 320Nm of torque at just 2,000rpm, which lends it a hugely muscular feel. In fact this Meriva will get to 62mph in just 9.9 seconds and Vauxhall has worked at improving the quality of the six-speed manual gearshift so that changes are slicker and gear engagement more reassuring. Refinement at speed is a notable strong point, with the engine only really becoming vocal at around 4,000rpm, at which point you will have probably upshifted anyway.

Chassis dynamics have never really been a Meriva high point. The steering in the Meriva is accurate but decidedly synthetic in feel. Nevertheless, the car generally feels very substantial and reassuring to drive, with plenty of grip and safe, predictable handling. Ride quality is firm but the advantage of this is that body roll is very well controlled.

This facelifted second generation Meriva gets a revised grille, but the chrome accents that frame the front fog lamps aren't so obvious. The headlights seem to have soaked up much of the budget and now feature an 'eagle-eye' graphic. For the first time, LED daytime running lights and LED tail lights are available as an option. If you're in the mood to tick options boxes, you can also pay extra for some 18-inch alloy wheels.

The Meriva still differentiates itself from its many rivals via its rear-hinged back doors. The advantage of this design comes when entering and exiting the vehicle as the doors open to an angle of almost 90 degrees and you can step straight out unhindered. It also helps parents when they're strapping the kids in or fitting child car seats because there's no door in the way to manoeuvre around. The interior itself is based around the FlexSpace seating system which allows the rear seats to fold down and slide individually. Splitting the cabin on the plusher models is the FlexRail, a pair of metal runners between the front seats that various modular storage bins and arm-rests can be clipped to and slid along. It's all very clever but those who have a thing for plastics quality might feel that some parts of the Meriva's cabin – especially rearwards from the front seats – show clear signs of cost-cutting. Still, that's the case with many of its rivals. It goes with the territory at this price point.

Variations

Whereas you used to have legions of trim level variations to wade through in order to find the Meriva you wanted, with this 1.6-litre CDTi, things are a whole lot more straightforward. You either pay just over £19,000 and buy the S trim or you pay just over £21,000 and bag yourself the SE specification. The S isn't badly finished with an ESP-plus electronic stability control system, twin front airbags, an electric parking brake, a CD / MP3 CD player / stereo radio with USB and AUX-in socket, electric front windows, electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors, remote central deadlocking, front side airbags and door-to-door illumination.

Go for the up-spec SE version and you'll find refinements such as a panoramic glass sunroof, 17-inch alloy wheels, folding seatback trays and under-seat drawers, a trip computer, cruise control, curtain airbags, leather trim for the steering wheel and gear shifter and heating for both the seats and the wheel.

There are many MPV or SUV owners who have looked at the cost of petrol and diesel derivatives of the same car, done the calculations and decided that based on the amount of miles they do, they'd never justify the additional expense of the diesel variant. So they buy the petrol model and soon come to realise that the torque deficit you get with entry-level petrol engines requires you to flog them really hard to make progress. They look at their economy figures and then realise the error of their ways. They should have bought a car like this Meriva 1.6 CDTi.

Emissions are also kept well in check at just 116g/km which, like the economy figure, is even better than the lowly 1.3-litre CDTi diesel engine you can also have fitted in your Meriva.

Residual values ought to be strong as well, with many buyers being attracted to the Meriva range's best and most economical powerplant.



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ADAM DESIGN. Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING PLANS: Prepared/submitted. K. J. Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

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Quality work assured. 30 years experience

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For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms in materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200. 28 years experience.

Free quotes. All work guaranteed
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DAVIES INSTALLATIONS All aspects of building work, plumbing, roofing, decking, kitchen and bathroom fitting. Call 07793 747829

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A RELIABLE PLUMBER no job too small, no call out fee. Call Lee: 07713 149278 / 01902 330351.

AA HEATING & Plumbing. Kitchen/Bathrooms installed/Service. Repair all gas work: 01922 660410

MKA PLUMBING/ HEATING Bathrooms, Kitchens, Central Heating. Call 07834 954066/ 01543 451772

PLUMBING WORK UNDETAKE No job too small or large. Call Will for a quote on: 07521 411108.

removals

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Local & Distance
Domestic & Commercial
Competitive Prices:
Moves from only £99
Call 07870 341089

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS

Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
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or 07749 941319

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

A2B REMOVALS Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 744693

ALL REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Call Keith on 07867 862227

ANY KIND OF CLEARANCE We load. We haul. No job to small. Free collection considered. Call: 07361 505562

CALL DEANI Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 01384 940260 / 07815 263460.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN. Removals, clearances, items large or small. Call: 01802 741546 or 07899 635852.

DJ REMOVALS house or one item. Affordable rates, reliable. Call: 01902 652346 or 07912 980177.

roofing

CLIFF NICHOLLS

Roofing & Scaffolding

All Roofing and Scaffolding Work carried out

30 years experience

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Reclaimed tile, slate and brick bought and sold.

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SB

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AFFORDABLE SKIPS
2-50 YARD SKIPS
AVAILABLE
LOCAL COMPANY
RELIABLE AND
FRIENDLY SERVICE
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Wants your Waste! Stop the risk of flytipping. Open to the public. Any size vehicle. Any Quantity. For Best Prices Please call: 0121 557 3346

A absolute affordable skip RUSSELL SKIPS

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

LAURAS TACK BOX Just Togs, Mustard boots, Special offer for November 229.99. Call 07949 943993, 01543 277688.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS. Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, inoculated and chipped.
Call Greyhound Trust
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Registered Charity
Dogs, cats, puppies & kittens accepted for rehoming.
Call: 01922 476208.
Red Lane, Off Crab Lane
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OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY 9am

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

HOUND TERRIER puppies for sale, ready to go. Wormed with paper work. Good, loving homes essential. Dogs: £250. Bitches: 07540 609946 Genuine calls only.

SMALL DOGS TAKEN IN From pounds, ex breeding, litters, family homes. Free collection service. All dogs in Family home until suitable homes are found. 01922 415919. www.smalldogrescue.co.uk

STAFFY CROSS. Male, 12 wks old, black/white. No small children, must have garden. £40. 07583 774392.

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE
COULD BE
PROMOTING
YOUR
BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

businesses for sale

CONSIDERING SELLING Your Business? Call John at County Business Sales 01902 766724.

6 Property

accommodation to let

No Deposit "Move In Today"

Studios from £30pw
Rooms from £50pw
Includes Most Bills
D.S.S.
Welcome

Check Website - Use List
All Black Country
01902 21 31 21
Accommodation.com

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BEDSITS, Hednesford, single person only. Telephone 07969 129134.

LODGER REQUIRED Dudley area. Large nice decorated room. Parking. £50pw. 07851 608515.

PERSON to share house, furnished bedroom, Willenhall, good parking. £55pw inc. 01902 632623.

THREE BED. Garden back / front. DG, CH, Dudley Fields, Bloxwich, Available. DSS OK. 07448 985201.

WEST BROMWICH 3-bed semi, near Sandwell Hospital, working only. £600pcm. 07795 534440

flats for sale

BILSTON
High quality 3 bedroom flat (all double rooms) 2nd floor. Secure entrance. New bathroom. Large kitchen/diner. Massive loft space/storage. £79,000 ono. 07738 178877.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

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WE PAY 100% Of Purchase Price for your home. Call Missing Link 0800 488 0063. Free 24/7

ADVERTISEMENTS

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

1. **Midland News Association Limited** All publications in this group are published by the Midland News Association Limited, registered office Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES (the Company) and this is the address to which any notices should be sent.
2. **Acceptance** The Company will only accept advertising on these standard terms and no other contract terms or conditions will apply other than those which are implied by statute and cannot lawfully be excluded. In particular the Company will not accept advertising on the basis of advertiser's terms and conditions.
3. **Content of Advertisements** All advertisements must be legal, decent, honest and truthful. Advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes under the general supervision of the Advertising Standards Authority. Advertisements must comply with the requirements of all current legislation including but not limited to the following: - All advertisements must clearly differentiate between trade and private advertising as required by the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must comply with the Consumer Credit (Advertisement) Regulations 1980. All descriptions of goods must be accurate and in no way infringe the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968. Advertisements must not contain any material which is defamatory. You must have permission to use any material contained in your advertisement and must not infringe the copyright moral rights or any other right of any third party. The Company reserves the right to refuse to carry any advertisement or to require amendment of any advertisement in its absolute discretion.
4. **Appearance of Advertisements** Whilst the Company makes every effort to comply with requests, publication on a particular date or in a particular position cannot be guaranteed. The Company reserves the right to alter, suspend, cancel or reject an advertisement at its discretion even after the same has been accepted for publication without being liable to compensate you. You will not be charged for any advertisement which does not appear. If only a part of a series of advertisements appears you will only be charged for the advertisements in the series which actually appear. The Company does not guarantee the publication or extent of supporting material or your obligation to pay for advertising will not under any circumstances be dependent upon the appearance or content of editorial. No liability will be accepted for non-appearance of editorial. The Company does not guarantee that advertising will not appear for similar or the same subject matter to your advertisement and no liability shall be accepted as a result of such advertising appearing. It is the advertiser's responsibility to provide any amended copy, whether by electronic or other format, and the Company does not guarantee that it will be able to or will agree to modify, amend or alter any file or copy supplied to it.
5. **Liability** The Company's liability for any loss or damage caused by any error or omission in the advertisement or for any breach of contract shall not in any circumstances exceed a full refund of any price paid by the advertiser to the Company for the publication of the advertisement or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of the same type as that which originally appeared. Where a series of advertisements is booked the Company's liability shall not in any circumstances exceed the value of the first advertisement in the series. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the publication of the advertisement the Company shall either re-publish the advertisement or the relevant parts of the advertisement or make a reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost of the advertisement. If the error does not materially detract from the advertisement then no re-publication, refund or adjustment will be made. It is the advertiser's responsibility to check the content of advertisements and the Company will not accept any liability for loss or damage, or obligation to republish or make a refund or adjustment, arising from re-publication of an advertisement containing an error, misprint or omission which has not been identified by the advertiser after first publication.
6. **Box numbers** The Company accepts no liability for loss or damage caused by delay in forwarding or omission to forward to the advertiser replies to Box Numbers. Box Numbers must not be used for sending goods, distributing circulars or communications from agents. The Company reserves the right to open and inspect all replies to Box Number and to destroy goods, circulars or communications from agents which are discovered during an inspection.
7. **Inspection** The Company shall be entitled at any time to inspect any goods or services advertised and may decline to carry further advertising if such inspection is not permitted to disclose the Company's provision of further advertising facilities is not appropriate in view of the nature or quality of the goods or services.
8. **Indemnity** The advertiser, including any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement, warrants that it has permission to use for publication by electronic and printed means all material which is included in the advertisement. The advertiser and any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement agree to indemnify the Company in respect of all charges, costs, claims, damage arising out of the placing out of the advertisement, whether the same result from actual or threatened legal action or from some other cause.
9. **Cancellation** On a request for cancellation or amendment of a classified advertisement being accepted, you will be given a cancellation or amendment number which must be quoted in all subsequent correspondence. Payment of the originally agreed price will be required in full for any advertisement in relation to which the advertiser is unable to supply a valid cancellation or amendment number. Cancellation can only be accepted if the Company is notified of the cancellation by no later than the following deadlines:
Lineage, Semi Display - By no later than 6.30pm on the working day prior to publication. Advertisements to appear on Monday must be cancelled by 10 am on the preceding Saturday
Classified Display - By no later than 24 hours before the date of publication
Colour/Features - By no later than 10 clear days before the date of publication
To Cancel Lineage, Semi Display and Classified Display advertisements please telephone 01902 317878. To cancel Colour/Features advertisements please speak to the Representative through whom the advertisement was booked.
10. **Rates** The advertising rates as laid out in the Company's current rate card which is available on request from the Company's offices. The rates may be varied from time to time in the Company's absolute discretion and without prior notification of the intended variation. The revised rate will be charged for any advertising ordered after the date of variation.
All gross advertising rates except classified lineage and semi-display are subject to a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance levy payable by advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
11. **Payment** The Company reserves the right to require pre-payment as a condition of any advertisement being published. Where pre-payment is not required unless different credit terms have been agreed with the advertiser in writing payment must be made within 14 days of the date of issue of the Company's invoice. An additional £2.00 booking charge will be payable if the invoice is not paid in full within this 14 day period.
Any additional credit facilities which are offered are at the Company's absolute discretion. The advertiser's liability shall be for the full amount of all advertising ordered and shall not be limited to the amount of any credit facility which the Company may impose.
Payment may be made by [method] cash, cheque or credit/debit card. The advertiser's obligation to pay for other items on an account shall not be affected by the existence of any query over an individual item within that account.
12. **Data Protection Act** The advertiser's details will be retained by the Company for the purposes of administering our accounts records and so that the Company may notify the advertiser of future advertising opportunities which may be of interest to you. By placing advertising with the Company the advertiser agrees to your details being used for this purpose.
13. **Applicable Law** These conditions of acceptance shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

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- ✓ Any property. Any condition. Anywhere
- ✓ Get up to 100% of the market value
- ✓ Free valuation. Free consultation
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Fast Sale
Maximum Value



UP TO
100%
PAID

SOLD

NO OBLIGATION
FREE CONSULTATION

24/7 Helpline
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01902 489 500

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We buy any house

We Pay 100% of purchase price

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Buying properties for over 30 years.
No fees - Free solicitors.

We also buy Commercial & Industrial, Shops, factories, building plots, land....even your garden!

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and we will call
you back now.

Call Stan on



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24 hrs

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we can buy your house in

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*Subject to terms
24 hrs

wolverhampton properties

2 days

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national homeowners helpline.co.uk in a mess? talk in confidence we can help

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Now for the best price
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Anytime

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Solves all your problems
Sell your house now
a guaranteed offer, no fees, fast completion any condition, any circumstances

Local Investor
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Its simple as that...
you will get the best deal on your home from
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7 Jobs

BILLY THOMAS
DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS
HGV C+E (ARTIC) & C (RIGID)
7.5T (C1) SMALL LORRY
CAR & TRAILER (B+E)
MINIBUS (D1)
1-2-1 TRAINING
INITIAL CPC TRAINING & ADP
CPC Periodic Training for PCV & LGV
from 7hr blocks - Full 35hrs
01902 744726 / 07831 646601

employment wanted

BRICKLAYER Fully experienced.
Good tradesman. Seeks
employment. 07976 446 049

EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYER
Seeks employment, private/commercial. Own tools and transport.
07932 844295.

8 Motoring

HYUNDAI COUPE SE, 2006, 57,750 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, £2,395 ono.
07833 103158.

MERCEDES SLK200 convertible, 2 seater, year 2000, blue, FSH, MoT, low mileage, beautiful car. £3,495, ono. 07847 456061.

cars under £1500

BMA Est. Here 25 Years
CARS UNDER £995
Full MoT's
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Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY
www.bmamotors.co.uk

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA
2004, 66,400 miles, silver, 1.6 petrol, 1 owner for 10 years, cambelt replaced, Sony stereo CD, abs, a/c, long MoT, c/p, pas, alloys.
£1,395.
07905 774284.

NFL MOTORCYCLE TRAINING
CBT to full licence. Call 8am - 9pm for deals 01902 494422.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

courses

drivers

VAN OWNERS/DRIVERS required, light haulage and courier work, nationwide. Text details only to 07940 400254.

engineering

cars over £1500

NISSAN MICRA SE, 1.3 Grey metallic, 3-dr, 2004, 50,000 miles, CD, EW, AC, MoT until March 2015.
Owner from new.
Nissan Service records, £2,000.
Telephone 07597 960815.

FIAT SCUDO
2003, 123,000 miles, white, MoT, £900 ono.
07725 438823.

commercial vehicles

A BETTER USED VAN All sizes and models, PX, Finance, Wednesbury Motors 0151 505 2202.

A B SPARES
Pays More
All Scrap Cars & Vans Wanted
Anything Considered
Free Collection
Scrap It Legally COD. Given Instant Payment.
01902 493110 / 0121 525 5813 daytime
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AUDI A3 TDI SPORT
2005, metallic grey, long MoT, diesel, panoramic roof.
£4,250.
01922 411827.

NISSAN MICRA SE, 1.3 Grey metallic, 3-dr, 2004, 50,000 miles, CD, EW, AC, MoT until March 2015.
Owner from new.
Nissan Service records, £2,000.
Telephone 07597 960815.

FIAT SCUDO
2003, 123,000 miles, white, MoT, £900 ono.
07725 438823.

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Homers
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
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security

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£3,100 ono.
07799 223258.

PEUGEOT 206 CC
2006, 45,366 miles, blue, electric windows, air con, alarm, 6 months MoT, central locking, full leather interior, immaculate condition, lady owner.
£3,195.
07769 355508.

PEUGEOT 206LX HD 03 reg. 3dr hatchback, diesel, black, MoT Feb 2015, 80,605 miles, 1 Lady owner. £900. 07935 470298.

motorbikes

SCRAPCARBUYERS.CO.UK
TOP PRICES PAID
0800 533 5139
0121 526 4666
07795 535 007

full time - general

PEUGEOT 207 VERVE
black, 4 years old, only done 9,000 miles, lady owner, immaculate and like new, AC, DVD, radio, bluetooth, EW.
£4,995.
01922 404509.

SUZUKI LIANA
2002, 51,500 miles, silver, electric windows, air bag, air con, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, one owner, pas.
£700.
01902 686159.

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Contract award subject to entry into commercial agreement.
For further details contact Graham Bell
on 01543 678910 grahambell@fedex.co.uk

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE
(12), 24,000 miles, smokey blue, air bag, electric windows, air con, fsh, cruise control, alloys, leather interior, 1149cc.
£5,100 ono.
07532 115881.

TOYOTA PREVIA unique registration K3 WYN, 2.5 petrol MPV, 12 months MoT, £990 ono. 07770 775492.

vehicle hire

BEST PRICE CAR + VAN HIRE
Daily/Weekly, Call Practical 0121 556 1315 practical.co.uk

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W.T.R VAN HIRE Connects, Transits, Lutons with Tail lifts, pick-ups Open seven days. 01902 457002 / 01384 79090.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS Guarantee best cash price for unwanted cars/vans. Call 01902 597035 / 07903 549849.

spares & accessories

accessories & services

AUDI ALLOYS, A4 A5 A6 4 x 18 inch 9 spoke alloys, excellent, with nearly new 245/45 Pirelli P Zero tyres. £550 ono. 07974 147517.

spares/parts

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Local Information

public & legal notices

ERIC REGINALD SPARKS (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 7 Sanstone Road Walsall West Midlands, who died on 16/10/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 16/01/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

THE WILKES PARTNERSHIP
41 Church Street Birmingham B3 2RT
T461172

PETER WILLIAM TAYLOR (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Homegarth House Nursing Home Walsall Road Great Witley Walsall West Midlands, who died on 21/09/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 16/01/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Miss A Loughran DWF
One Snowhill Snow Hill Queensway Birmingham B4 6GA
T424015

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(A) THE M54 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 1, STAFFORDSHIRE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the M54 Motorway in the County of Staffordshire, to allow safety fencing and surface repair work to be carried out following a traffic accident.

The effect of the Order will be to close the westbound carriageway of the M54 between its junctions with the exit and entry slip roads at Junction 1. Work will be carried out over one night between 21:00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Monday 24 November 2014. The Order will come into force on Friday 21 November 2014.

Vehicles being used for police, fire service or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer in uniform will be exempt from the closures. A diversion route via the M54 Junction 1 slip roads will be signed.

For further information, please contact Neil Hansen on 0121 678 8215.

Mike Lloyd, a Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency.

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2010 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email, planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

14/1590/FL WHG Developments Ltd FOR: Erection of a pair of 4 bed semi detached houses
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14/1585/RM Cameron Homes Ltd FOR: Reserved matters application for erection of 8 dwellings pursuant to outline planning permission 13/0978/OL (submission of details of appearance and landscaping)
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Focusing on bigger picture aids Dean

DEAN SMITH claims staying focused on the bigger picture helps him get through the bad times at Walsall.

The manager saw his position come under increasing scrutiny from fans after three straight defeats before the Saddlers scored a crucial win against Chesterfield.

Yet Smith insists he never felt any extra pressure going into that game, as he remains convinced the long-term future is bright.

Smith said: "I was only under as much pressure as I've felt for any other game, and I can honestly say that.

"I've never got too high when we win and I've never got too low when we lose.

"Because I think the position we are in as a football club is very good.

"The results haven't been great and the position in the league table isn't good.

"But when I look at it and I've got the likes of Jordan Cook, Romaine Sawyers, Tom Bradshaw, Anthony Forde, players like that, on long-term contracts here at this football club, the future is certainly bright.

"That's one thing that you do learn, that you have to keep planning for the future."

It doesn't Barwell for Rushall

Rushall Olympic 0
Barwell 3

RUSHALL Olympic were beaten by Barwell at Dales Lane - to make it five Northern Premier League, Premier Division, losses in a row for Richard Sneekes' struggling side.

Jon Stevenson almost put the visitors in front when he shot just wide from a quick free-kick but Barwell were ahead five minutes before the break as Callum Woodward fired a superb effort into the top corner.

And the Leicestershire side doubled their lead eight minutes after the interval as the unmarked Danny Jenno headed in from Tomkinson's corner.

Rushall made a triple substitution with Liam Smith, Charlie Reece and Jake Heath replacing Kris Taylor, Carl Palmer and Nathan Rooney.

But Barwell then made it 3-0 after 73 minutes thanks to Kieron Brehon, who fired in off the post.

Swann hits Town treble

Darlaston 5
Warstones Wanderers 2
DARLASTON extended their winning run to eight league games with a 5-2 home victory over Warstones Wanderers in West Midlands Division Two.

It was Reeves who opened the scoring for Darlaston with a deft touch past Elwell after some excellent set up play by Mark Swann. Swann also scored with Aaron Perin getting one back for Wanderers to give Darlo a 2-1 half-time lead.

Swann added two in the second half before Sean Westley made it 5-1 and Sam Mason grabbed a late consolation for Warstones.

Walsall fail to cash in on their lead



Ian Bradshaw goes over to score a try for Walsall

Walsall 27 Stratford 27
WALSALL were guilty, once again, of failing to defend a match-winning lead.

This time it was their Warwickshire visitors that got through the home defence with an injury time try and conversion to share the league points.

Indeed, it was a similar scenario leading up to half time as Stratford gained a 15-12 advantage just before the break.

Roger Weston had earlier kicked four penalties for Walsall.

While the visitors had their other points through a penalty and a Dan Whithy try, Stratford made a good start to the second half as some good support play resulted in a try for centre Jack Young. But the hosts

Rugby

controlled the game for long periods during the rest of the half.

Walsall closed the gap when skipper Stephen Halbert and hooker Neil Pittaway made good ground before Ian Bradshaw crashed over from close range.

Winger Paul Naylor scored their next with a superb 25 metre run.

This was followed by Richard Fernhead finishing off a sustained attack with a try near the corner flag. The hosts failed to retain possession and the visitors again showed some good running and supporting skills which resulted in Whithy scoring his second try. Young then converted to draw

the game. United won 19-10 against a strong Bromsgrove Development team. The visitors scored two tries through Matt Craddock and Jordan Lay with Rob Angell kicking three penalties.

Walsall 3rds were beaten 29-5 by Tamworth 2nds.

Dudley Kingswinford U-15s 20 Walsall U-15s 60

The visitors had the first score as Nico Watkins cut through.

The team then had a period of defending before tries from Alex Fletcher and long range tries for Sam Garbutt and Cameron Kikbride. Dudley kept in touch with two more tries.

Walsall U-14s 40 Burton U-14s 31: Walsall were always in the lead, they also had periods of desperate defence.

Aiton drew out his late touch of magic

FA Vase Round 1
Walsall Wood 3 AFC Bridgnorth 2
A Drew Aiton piece of magic late into injury time gave Wood the win they just about deserved.

The leaders of the West Midland League Premier Division twice came from behind and looked to have taken the tie into extra time, but Wood hadn't read the script and progress through into Round 2, Wembley is now only seven games away.

It was a cagey opening 30 minutes, the only chance of note coming after just seven minutes.

A ball forward was flicked on by Joey Butlin to find Leon Taylor, he went through one tackle and raced into the right of the box, keeper Chris Crook saving bravely at his feet.

A minute into the second half a lovely move in from the left came to a sudden stop when Max Black was fouled 25 yards out in a central position, Butlin's free kick came off the underside of the bar and Corey Curriethers was first to react heading the ball home from close range.

Curriethers then won the ball on halfway and raced for goal, hitting a 30-yard effort just too high.

Two minutes later it was all square, Anwar galloped clear wide right, cut inside and fired in a cross that Kisiel couldn't hold, Karl Griffiths tapping home the loose ball.

Parity lasted less than a minute, Ben Evans was fouled on the right edge of the box, Butlin delivered the ball into the centre for Taylor to bullet a header in.

On 69 minutes Lee Stretton intercepted a through-ball, powered forward into the left of the box with a 60-

Football

yard run, only to be stopped by Hartlebury with a superbly timed tackle.

Two minutes later a marauding left wing run by Curriethers saw his ball inside find Taylor whose first time effort was blocked, the ball rebounding to Evans to fire over.

Back came the visitors, Coney got clear wide left, crossed into the box for substitute Kevin Buxton to fire inches too high.

A ball over the top of the Wood defence on 80 minutes was read superbly by Griffiths, bringing the ball down and calmly lobbing the stranded Kisiel to make it all square again.

On 89 minutes a central free kick found Drew Aiton in the centre of the box, he cleverly turned his marker and his low drive was inches wide.

Four minutes into injury time Steven Hayles broke up a Bridgnorth attack and found Danny Forrest on halfway, his ball forward was touched on by Butlin to Aiton in the left of the box.

He cut back inside and his low drive was blocked by Mike Evans, Aiton collected the rebound, went outside the defender before curling a shot into the far bottom corner to put Wood through to Round 2.



Sub Drew Aiton slots the winner through a crowded penalty area . Picture Will Kilpatrick photography

High five makes it seven heaven for Wood

Walsall Wood 5 Continental Star 3 (aet)

WOOD made it seven wins out of seven over their near neighbours since August 2013, but they were made to work really hard for the victory as the visitors twice came from behind to take the tie into extra time.

Wood went ahead when, Max Black racing through the centre, drew the covering full back out of position before rolling a slide rule, diagonal ball left for Corey Curriethers to open his account.

The game continued in the same vein at the start of the second half with both sides looking to play attacking football in the blustery conditions, but it was Wood who got the important next goal on 56 minutes.

Danny Forrest won the ball left of centre, played a ball out wide left to Jamel Fuller, he made space and his precision ball inside

was dug out from under his feet by Taylor to calmly slot home No. 2.

The visitors were then given a lifeline, a long ball forward found substitute Daniel Elwell in the D, he ran on and calmly reduced the deficit.

Play switched to the other end and it was Faultless racing from his line to make an important slide tackle on the dangerous Elwell.

Then on 78 minutes disaster struck for Wood, Johnson collected the ball left of centre, powered through three tackles and his low drive from just inside the box made the score level.

Within a minute Wood were back ahead, Aiton coming in from wide left, picking out Ben Evans just outside the right of the box, he cut back across the face of the box,

picked his spot and drilled the ball into the left hand corner.

Wood won the ball from the restart and Butlin was released into the right of the box, loud penalty appeals came from the crowd as he went down under a challenge but the ball was unceremoniously cleared upfield, to be collected by Elwell right of centre, he just ran through the Wood defence and slotted home his second and Star's third.

Wood nearly won it at the death, Craig Deakin's ball forward into the box found Aiton, he calmly sidestepped his marker and his low drive was inches wide.

A minute into extra time from a left wing corner Curriethers forced the ball home through a packed six-yard box to put Wood back in front.

Substitute Lee Stretton stopped Elwell claiming his third with a last ditch tackle on 10 minutes, a minute later Johnson hit a first time effort just wide.

Ellis kept Star in it with a brilliant one handed stop from a first time rising drive from Aiton.

It was all over on 16 minutes, Black raced on to a ball right of centre before running at the defence and slipping the ball neatly to Ben Evans right of the box to hit a low drive that gave Ellis no chance.

The keeper made two good saves in the dying minutes to deny Black and Evans from getting his hat-trick.

So it's Wood through to an away tie with Heath Hayes, for Star it's defeat No.7 on the bounce to Wood but they go home with a load of credit after another night of drama.

Premier's Swinfen drops Anchor

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Lichfield Charity Cup - Round two

GS Rockets 1 Brereton Town 2 aet

Talbot FC 6 Green Rock Tav. 0

Bloxwich grab the perfect 10

Bloxwich Men's 1sts10 Barlaston 0

AFTER an extremely disappointing result last week, Bloxwich romped home to an emphatic win against a poorly prepared Barlaston team.

Jake Perkins broke his duck with his long awaited goal to take Bloxwich into the lead early on.

A full team effort of patient passing around the defence and precision finishing in front of goal lead to a comprehensive victory for the men in red and black.

Matt Whitehouse stylishly scored two well-worked goals, Matt Baldwin converted a penalty flick and an open play goal, Adam Baldwin got back on the score-sheet with two goals, Phil Ashcroft thumped home a screamer and Ryan Mitford scored an excellent goal to get his first of the season.

Eddie Marrocco, Gary Williams and Steve Malloes provided assists and the defence were rock solid.

Cash boost for Saddlers

WALSALL have posted a trading profit of £19,000 - while the club's debt has also been slashed.

The Saddlers posted the after-tax profit for the financial year ending May 31, a decrease of £4,000 on the previous year.

However, the club were also able to reduce their net debt considerably, down £377,000 to £2.3m, something chairman Jeff Bonser claims makes the overall profit "more significant".

He added: "I would once again like to say a big thank you to our supporters for their continued loyalty and commitment to the club."

SPORT

Lead lost
Walsall fail to seal
game while ahead
Page 43

R'Aiton time
Late score keeps
Wood in the running
Page 43



Sports Desk 01902 319531

email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Yates is the hero with late penalty

Aldridge 25 Essington 24
THIS gripping league encounter flowed and ebbed but it wasn't until well into the last play that the game was put to bed with a penalty by Aldridge.

Fortunes changing sides many times as the game unfolded. It was the home side that opened the scoring with fullback Alex Yates scoring and converting.

The Aldridge lead was soon cancelled though as Essington forcefully gained more of the spoils.

Lock Craig Mason crossed and centre Ian Brittain touched down behind the posts – converted by No10 Alec Cowmeadow – giving them a lead of 7-12 that they protected until the interval.

In the second half tries from winger Nick Yates and prop Eddie O'Neill provided a welcome cushion but these were cancelled out by a couple of defensive mix-ups that let the visitors right back into the game.

Mason crossed for his second of the afternoon – converted by Cowmeadow – and winger Frazier Grieves plucked a wayward fly-hack out of the air and promptly ran it back over the Aldridge line.

Dan McKenna then scored. Essington clung to a 2-point lead but Alex Yates snatched the game for the home side by a single point.

Lockmen stay in Vase chase

Blidworth 0 Willenhall 2
THE Lockmen moved into the second round of the FA Vase but they were made to battle for 90 minutes by their hosts.

Willenhall were on the attack first as a Danny Hemmings effort was blocked and then skipper Paul Holden's 30-yard effort flew just over.

Blidworth responded with a spell of possession and saw one cross-shot rattle the outside of a Willenhall post.

The Lockmen threatened again just before the break, while efforts from Craig Sudlow, Tom Turner and Foster all flew off target.

Eddie Wilson returned to the fray for the first time since limping off in the opening game of the season and scored.

With three minutes left Hemmings crossed to Sudlow who settled it for the Lockmen.

Defence digs in but Blox are shut out



Bloxwich scrum down against Edwardians

Bloxwich RFC 1st XV 0 Edwardians RFC 5

THE home side started well and with their back row on top were able to dictate field position and possession.

Bloxwich welcomed back S Pursehouse to the front row, and the scrum was putting the home side on the front foot.

A good break down the blind side from Bloxwich scrum half didn't get its reward when the final pass to beat the defence went to ground.

Penalty's and infringements frus-

Rugby

trated the home side when attempting to build attacking phases to establish quick ball and space.

At the start of the second half skipper Richard Geary led from the front with some destructive running from No.8, but was unable to establish the quick ball needed for the speedsters on the wing.

Edwardians continued to frustrate Bloxwich and gave away a penalty

just 15 yards out. Rather than opt for the score through the posts, Bloxwich kicked for the line.

J Parkes who had been dominant at four in the line out all day gathered and fed the ball to his support and set up a rolling maul only to be collapsed by Edwardians.

Apart from the score in the first half the visitors never really threatened the Bloxwich try line.

Despite not troubling the score line there was plenty of positive in a disciplined and committed performance.

10-man Rushall get win

Rushall 2 Cambridge 0

RUSHALL Olympic won their first game in six attempts despite playing the majority of the second half with 10 men.

Aaron Farrell's header and an Aaron Williams penalty was enough to see the Pics through the FA Trophy first qualifying round against a Cambridge City side now without a win in 12 games.

The first good chance came for the visitors as Danny Kelly burst onto a through ball only to see Cameron Belford block his shot after 27 minutes.

Rushall were ahead four minutes later as Farrell punished some poor defending by the visitors to glance his header in from Kris Taylor's corner.

Aris Christophorou had the chance to go down in the box after a great run but pulled the ball back only for Reynolds to make a superb double save – first from Josh Craddock and then Williams from the rebound.

From a free-kick, the hosts won a penalty for a push on Williams who got up to convert the spot-kick after 57 minutes.

The rewards are coming at last

RICHARD O'DONNELL believes Walsall are finally beginning to get the results their performances deserve.

O'Donnell said: "That is how we have been playing the majority of the season, as anyone who has been coming to watch us will have seen.

"I think we are starting to get the rewards."

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SADDLERS FINALLY SHOW THEIR FORM

Notts County 1 Walsall 2

THIS was exactly the kind of performance Dean Smith has been claiming his players were capable of.

The kind that, prior to Saturday, a growing number of people had begun to believe they weren't.

It might have only been by one goal and some members of the opposing camp might have cried foul over the winner.

But whether you believe Haydn Hollis' hand was inside the box or not when he used it to block the ball is largely irrelevant. As County boss Shaun Derry so refreshingly pointed out after the game, no matter any perceived controversy, the right result was achieved in the end.

Hanging

After rather hanging onto the coat-tails of the hosts in the first half, the Saddlers took control in the second and were more than deserved winners. Best result of the season? Unquestionably.

County had entered the game unbeaten in 11 and winners in their last six but found themselves strangled by a visiting midfield which wouldn't let go.

It was the Saddlers first away league win of the season and performing like this, you wonder why it's taken so long.

Whether this really is a corner turned, only time will tell. But finally, at long last, this season has a sense of upward momentum. Maintaining it will not be straightforward. The gen-

Football

eral feeling is that Shrewsbury, under Micky Mellon, will prove a far sterner test than they did a year ago when the two old rivals renew hostilities this Saturday.

How Smith must have enjoyed the first goal too, created as it was by Bradshaw, Romaine Sawyers and Jordan Cook.

County's Gary Jones might have got the final touch but that should not distract from the work of Bradshaw, who chased a loose ball where others might not, or the pace of Cook and interchange with Sawyers.

The hosts drew deservedly level when Garry Thompson converted Lee McLaughlin's centre and might have led at the break had Richard O'Donnell not denied Mike Petrasso.

Walsall regrouped, took control of the midfield and made their dominance pay with Bradshaw's winner.

There was no question Hollis handled it, the assistant referee ruled it was inside the box and Bradshaw coolly sent the spot-kick in.



Walsall striker Tom Bradshaw celebrates after his coolly-taken penalty makes it 2-1

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